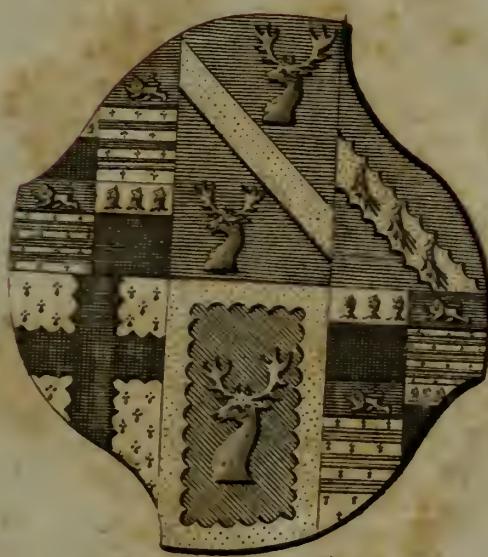






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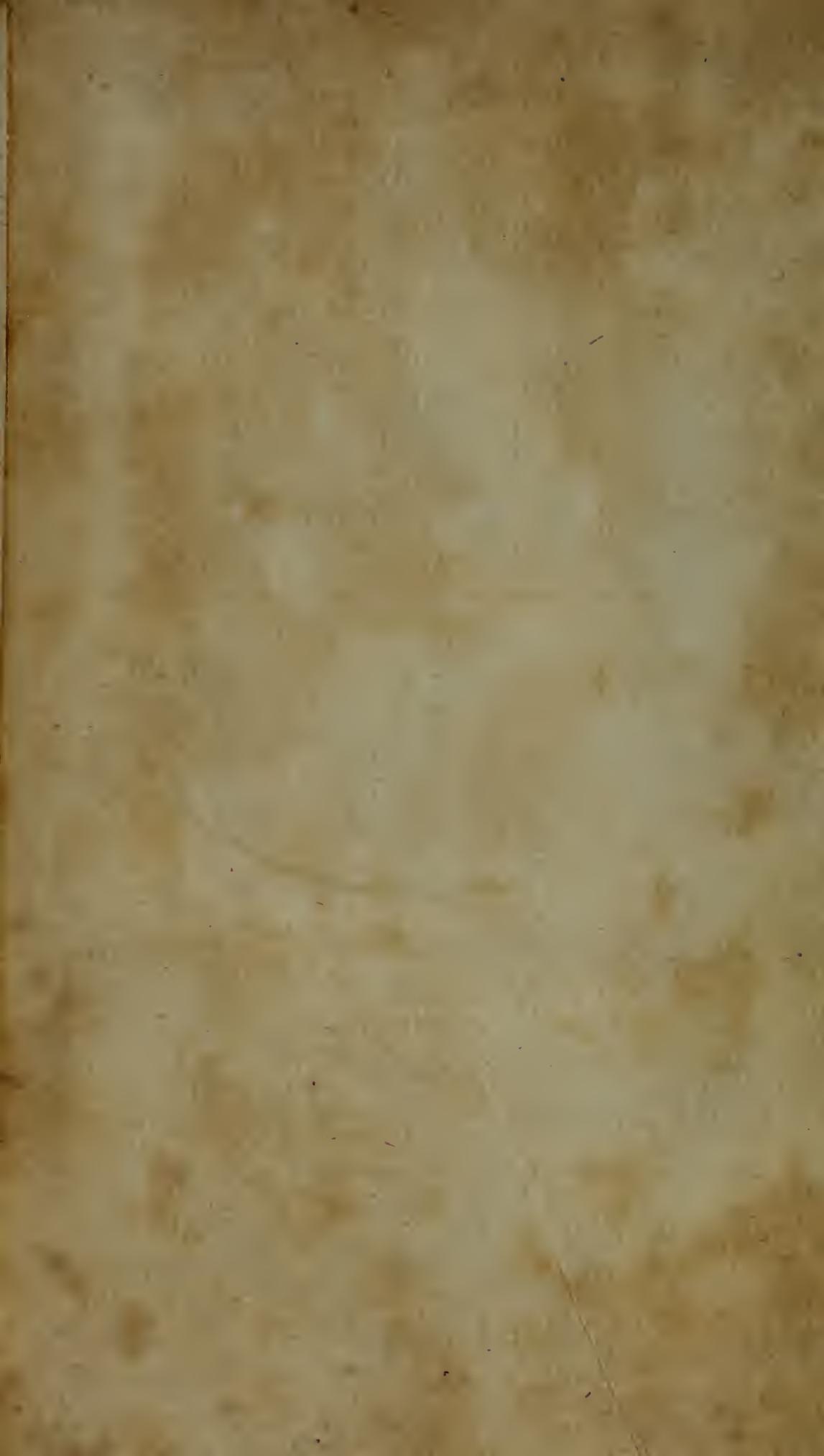


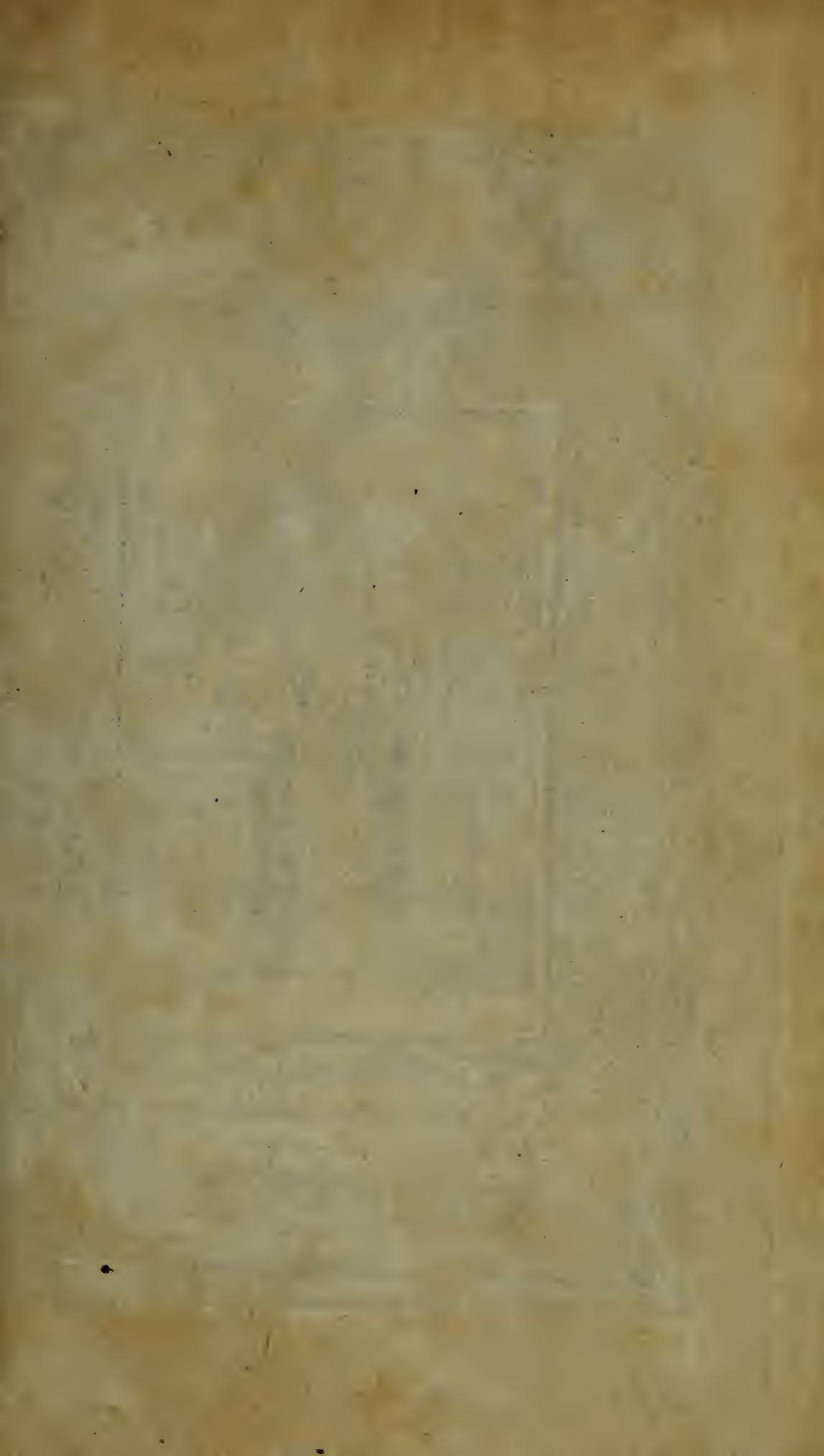
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In the Great Legislator veild Survey
The Ivylight to the Saviour's glorious Day;
When Shadows to the Substance must resign,
And Truth with unrebat'd Splendor shine.



THE
HISTORY
of the
Old and New
TESTAMENT
Attempted
IN VERSE:
And adorn'd with
Three Hundred & Thirty
SCULPTURES.
Written by S. Wesley, A.M.
The CUTS done
By J. Sturt.

LONDON;
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TO THE
QUEEN.

O ! Of the Royal Martyr's Sacred
Race !
(Long may the Royal Martyr's
Race remain !)
Equal to fill our Great Eliza's Place,
And Empires pond'rous Orb unmow'd
sustain,

DEDICATION.

This humble Tribute, not unpleas'd, receive,

Which at the Footstool of Your Throne I lay:

'Tis all a grateful Loyal Heart can give,

'Tis all that I for more than Life can pay:

Not but the Sacred Truths these Leaves contain,

Are Treasures for the greatest Prince's Breast:

The Gems are right, tho' I their Lustre stain,

The Gold, tho' rudely stamp'd, will bear the Test.

I sing the Loves of the first Happy Pair,

While Paradise their smiling Hours employ'd;

Remov'd from Want, remov'd from jealous Care,

A State the Vertuous-Few have since enjoy'd.

Hom

DEDICATION.

How Sin and Men increas'd, what Fate
surpriz'd,

What Worlds of Water wash'd their
Crimes away;

While righteous NOAH, whom they
once despis'd,

Secure within his floating Castle lay.

By Wonders rescu'd, and by Wonders fed,
How Israel trac'd the sandy Desarts
o're;

What Laws their Saviour fix'd, when them
he led

To promis'd Seats, and Canaan's happy
Shore.

What Force and Fraud oppos'd their rising
State,

What Angels on their side embattel'd
stood:

While hor'ring Death did for its Quarry
wait,

And ancient Kishon drew a purple
Flood.

But

DEDICATION.

But who the fore-most stands in Glory's
Race ?

The Great in Arms, Abinoam's God-
like Son !

Tho' Great in Arms he thought it no Dis-
grace,

At Deb'rah's Feet to throm the Spoils
he won.

What joyous Triumphs, and what Songs
of Praise,

From neighb'rинг Tabor's verdant Tops
resound !

Tabor, which higher seem'd its Head to
raise,

With native Garlands, and with Lau-
rels crown'd.

Such Trophies, oft, nor is the Presage
vain,

I see your happy rising Years shall meet ;
Till every haughty Sisera is slain,
And Jabin's self shall tumble at your
Feet.

DEDICATION.

So fall thy Foes, just Heav'n ! thy Pow'r
confess'd,
By those thy injur'd Goodness dare
withstand ;
While Israel's with thy strong Salvation
bless'd,
And Peace, and Plenty crown thy
Fav'rite Land.

So prays,

Your MAJESTY'S

Most Loyal, and most Obedient

Subject and Servant,

S. WESLEY.

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
Holy Bible,
In Verse, with Sculptures.

B

The

I.

The CREATION.

IN the Beginning did th' All-High create
 The Heav'n and Earth, He spake and made
 it Fate :
 Arose the *Embryo-Earth*, unform'd and *Vast*,
 By old coëval *darkness* round embrac'd :
 Let there be *Light*, said G O D ; The *Light* obey'd,
 And blaz'd with cheerful *Beams* amid the *Shade* ;
 Thence rolling round produc'd the *First* bright *Day*,
 While gloomy *Night* her own sad Realms obey.

The vast *Expanse* above was next display'd,
 The restless *Seas*, and solid *Earth* were made :
Earth, in her various-colour'd *Mantle* dress'd,
 Each *Tree*, each *Herb*, creating Pow'r confess'd.

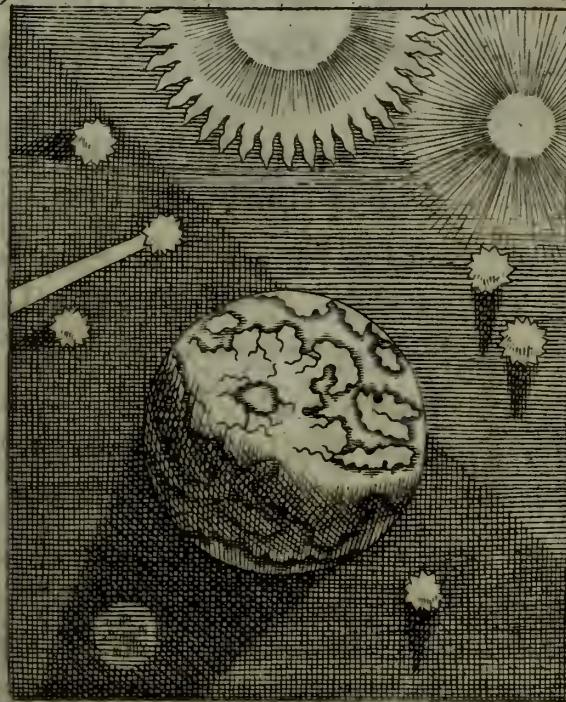
Behold the *Sun's* fair *Lamp* which rules the *Day* !
 The *Moon*, which shines serene with borrow'd *Ray*,
 High in Mid-Heav'n, and with her *Starry*-*Train*
 O'r solemn *Night* renew's her peaceful *Reign*.

Next see the *Fowls* thro' Air's wide *Ocean* fly,
 And scaly *Fish* cut the low liquid *Sky* !
 Th' Almighty call'd, and various *Creatures* come
 At his Command from *Earth's* prolific *Womb* :
 Then *Man* in his own *Image* made and bless'd,
 And pleas'd with all his *Works*, from all his *Works*
 did rest.

I.

GENESIS, Chap. I. to Ver. 14.

3



1. In the beginning God created the heaven and earth.
3. And said, Let there be light : and there was light.
6. Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.
9. Let the waters be gathered together, and let the dry-land appear.
11. Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree yeilding fruit, &c.
14. Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven, to divide the day from the night, &c.

II.

PARADISE, the Creatures nam'd,
 the Woman form'd.

SUCH was the Worlds *Creation*, such the Birth
 Of all the various Tribes of Heav'n and Earth :
 Nor *Herb* nor *Plant* that voluntary grew,
 Sweet *Rain* as yet was none, nor kindly *Dew*.

Can *Dust-born Men* be proud or vain, who know
 From whence they *come*, and whither doom'd to *go*?
 Or can they ought that's *mean*, when God has set
 A *Jewel* in their earthly *Cabinet*?
 A *Soul*, of heavenly *Seed*, of *Angel-kind*,
 And marry'd *Matter* with *Immortal Mind*?

In friendly *Pairs* the mute *Creation* came,
Homag'd their *Lord*, and each receiv'd its *Name* :
 To *Man* alone no *Like* or *Second* found
 Of all that *swim* in *Air*, or *graze* the *Ground* :
 Nor must his *Life* run *wast*, by Heav'n design'd
 To plant the *World*, and propagate his *Kind* :
 Thence, from his *Side*, what can't th' Almighty doe ?
 He moulds a *Female-Man*, of Heavn'ly hew :
 The Strokes, than *His*, less *bold*, but far more *fine*, }
 Softer each *Touch*, and gentler every *Line*, }
 Tho both, confess'd, the *Work* of Hands divine. }
 Nor left to range, a lovely *Garden* made,
 The *Bride* and *Bridegroom* thither He convey'd :
 The Makers Hands adorn'd that happy Place,
 With *Colonies* of all th' *Arboreal Race* ;

Thro'

Thro' whose bless'd *Shades* a Crystal River glides,
And thence in *Four* capacious *Streams* divides.

Such was the *blisful Bow'r* our Sire enjoy'd,
Till *Eve*, and the curs'd *Serpent* him destroy'd.

-- Yet still we haunt the *Streams*, and silent *Grove*,
And our dear *Native-Gardens* still we love ;
And still we hope, nor hope perhaps in vain,
At length those *Happy Mansions* to regain.

-- "O when! -- It now grows near - *Life's Tempest or'e,*

" With what loud joyful *Shouts* I'd hail the welcome
Shore!

GENESIS, Chap. II. from Ver. 4. to
Ver. 22.

v. 4. These are the Generations of the Heavens and
of the Earth, when they were created &c.

5. And every Plant of the Field, before it was in
the Earth, &c.

7. And the Lord God formed Man of the dust of the
Ground, and breathed into his Nostrils the Breath of
Life.

8. And the Lord God planted a Garden, &c.

19. And out of the ground the Lord God formed
every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air, &c.

20. And Adam gave names to all cattel, and to
the fowl of the air, &c.

21. The Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon
Adam: and he took one of his Ribs, &c.

22. And the Rib which he had taken from Man, &c.

III.

The Serpents Temptation, the Fall of our First Parents.

O Happy-Pair ! -- But Ah! how short your Bliss ?
How soon the Foe has enter'd Paradise !
A crested Serpents speckled Form he wears,
In Mischief skill'd his Guileful Arts he shares :
Where is the Guard of Seraphs, that secures
Endanger'd Nature's tott'ring Fate, and yours ?
-- You make your Fate : stand now, you always stand !
The Terms of Life are no severe Command :
That Tree, that deadly Tree alone forbear,
The rest with Blessing, and with welcome share.
-- 'Tis pass'd, the Serpent has on Eve prevail'd :
Strengthned with such Allies he rarely fail'd :
She eats, she gives our Sire, it pleas'd his Eyes,
The tempting Flavor pleas'd, he tastes, he dies.
Groan'd the Creation, shook the Poles ; and all
Convulsive Nature trembled at their Fall.
Hence all those Ills which God's fair Work deface,
Hence Sin, and Death, and Pain entail'd on all their
Race.

II.

GENESIS, Chap. III. to Ver. 14.



v. 1. Now the Serpent was more subtil than any Beast of the Field, and said to the Woman, yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every Tree of the Garden? &c.

6. And when the Woman saw that the Tree was good for Food, and that it was pleasant to the Eyes, and a Tree to be desir'd to make one wise, She took of the Fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also to her Husband with her, and he did eat, &c.

IV.

Adam and Eve driven out of Paradise.

FAREWEL ye lovely Groves and peaceful Shades,
Those happy Regions which no Storm invades !
Th' Offenders, to a ruin'd World must go,
And share a sad Variety of Woe.

In vain the Man does his weak Consort blame,
And on the tempting Serpent, Eve exclaim :
Our Sire, his Life in Sorrow doom'd to wear,
Our Mother must with Pangs and Torments bear.
Th' accursed Serpent, now no longer crown'd,
Erect no more, but groveling on the Ground ;
Amid the Dust he trails his Length of Train,
And rears Breast-high his spotted Form in vain.
The Womans Seed his guileful Head shall bruise,
The Servile Chains of ransom'd Mortals loose.

Th' Eternal thus, who did their Doom declare
With Mercy mix'd, nor leaves 'em all Despair :
--- But the sad Moment's come, they must away,
For angry rolling Flames forbid their stay :
With Shame and Blushes never known before
Fair Eden they forsake --- An Angel guards the
Door,

III.

GENESIS, Chap. III, Ver. 12. to the last.

9



v. 12. The Man said, the Woman gave me of the Tree and I did eat.

13. The Woman said the Serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

14. The Lord God said unto the Serpent, upon thy belly shalt thou go, &c.

16. Unto the Woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy Sorrow and thy Conception, &c.

17. To Adam he said, cursed be the Ground for thy sake, &c.

24. So he drove out the Man, and he plac'd at the East of the Garden of Eden, Cherubims, &c.

V.

V.

CAIN and ABEL.

HOW soon the *Ruins* of the *World* begin !
 How soon 'tis all deform'd by *Death* and *Sin* !
 Their *Crime* and *Curse* our *Parents* soon are shown,
 And in their *Offsprings* *Fate* they read their *own* :
 Two *Sons* they had, and both, as taught, prepare
 To attone high *Heav'n* with *Sacrifice* and *Pray'r*,
 Their *Elder* harsh, and fell, his *Savage Mind*
 To darling *Mischief* and to *Blood* inclin'd ;
Churlish, as was th' ungrateful *Soil* he tore,
 Which *Corn* with *Thistles* mix'd, and *Darnel* bore :
 Not so the *Younger*, in whose *Eyes*, and *Mind*
Modesty sat enthron'd, and *Virtue* shin'd :
 His *Fleecy Household*, *Innocent* as they,
 His *Joy* to *fold* by *Night*, and *feed* by *Day*, }
 And then the *fairest* on the *Altar* lay :
 The *lightest Sheaf* he found, his *Brother* brought,
 And murm'ring, that, *too good for Heav'n* lie thought.
 See a bright *Flame* descending from the *Skies*
Consume the *righteous Abel's Sacrifice* ;
 His *Brother's* wrapp'd in angry *Clouds* and *Smoke*,
 Which from th' affronted *Throne* in *Thunder* broke.
 Nor this, enrag'd, *malignant Cain* : " If these
 " Refus'd, what next I offer, *Heav'n* shall please.
 See his just *Brother* prostrate on the *Plain*, }
 His *Hands*, his *Eyes* for *Mercy* plead in vain :
 O spare the *guiltless Youth* ! --- Too late -- He's }
Slain, He's *Slain*.

IV.

IV.

GENESIS, Chap. IV. from Ver. 2. to 8.

ii



v. 2. Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3. Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the Lord.

4, 5. And Abel he also brought of the Firstlings of his Flock and of the Fat thereof; And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his Offering, but unto Cain and to his Offering he had not respect.

6. Cain rose up against his Brother, and slew him.

VI.

VI.

CAIN's Punishment.

THUS impious *CAIN* unveil'd the first sad Scene,

And taught his mournful Sire what Death did mean :
Where is thy Brother, GOD in Thunder cries ;
I neither know nor care, the Churl replies.

Am I his Keeper, that thou me dost charge ?
My Fields are narrow, but *his Walks* are large :
O Wretch, he cries, *thy Crimes* thou canst not hide ;
In vain to him, who *all things sees,* deny'd :
What hast thou done ? From *Earth* unto the *Skies*
Thy murder'd Brother's Blood for *Vengeance* cries :
Accurs'd art thou, and *Earth* thy *Curse* shall bear ;
The barren Soil ungrateful to thy Care.
Trembling and *fearful* thou in *vain* shalt run
From Man's dear Face. *Thy self* thou canst not *shun.*

When thus the *muddy Murd'rer* in Despair
 " My Punishment I cannot, will not bear.
 " I'm from my Father's Pious House disjoyn'd,
 " And banish'd from the Face of Human-Kind. }
 " If any me a helpless Exile find,
 " They soon the trembling Fugitive will slay,
 " Or he to wild and ravenous Beasts a Prey. No

" No -- thou thy hated Life a while shalt bear,
 " And my just Vengeance to the World declare :
 Th' Almighty answers -- " I my self will place
 " The dreadful Stains of Murther on thy Face,
 " That all may shun thy Crimes and Fate. -- He
 said,

The Caitiff heard, with ghastful Looks he fled,
 And oft he turns his guilty Eyes behind,
 And starts at every noise, and Breath of Wind :
 His guilty Eyes and ghastful Looks confess'd
 The secret hellish Pain that gnaw'd his anxious
 Breast.

GENESIS, Chap. IV. from Ver. 9. to 14.

9. The Lord said unto Cain, where is Abel thy brother? and he said, I know not: am I my brothers keeper?

10. And he said, what hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's bloud crieth unto me from the ground.

11. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's bloud from thy hand.

12. When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength. A fugitive and a Vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

13. And Cain said unto the Lord, my punishment is greater than I can bear, &c.

VII. *The Ark and Flood.*

NOR this nor Cain's, nor Lamech's Blood suffice,
 To purge a guilty *World* overwhelm'd in Vice :
 The Wicked Seed prevail, their monstrous Race
 With Rapes and Murthers cover Earths sad Face :
 Noah alone his Innocence retain'd,
 Of Millions, only Noah, Just, remain'd
 And stemm'd a *World*; nor this to him unknown
 Who all surveys from his Celestial Throne :
 His injur'd Patience wou'd no longer wait,
 His Justice seals the hardned Rebels Fate ;
 But righteous Noah he resolves to spare,
 And bids him a spacious *Ark* prepare
 To embark the future *World*, and save it there. }
 Of every Species, thus had Heav'n enjoyn'd,
 Of either Sex, still to preserve the Kind
 He to the *Ark* conveys, of all that breath,
 And rescues from th' approaching *Watry Death*.
 --- Which now from injur'd angry Heav'n descends,
 While the vex'd Earth with dire Convulsions rends :
 And Old Abyss, which round the Center lay
 Reveals her hidden Stores to wondring Day :
 Rivers their Banks, the Sea forgets her Shore
 Her Waves by God's Decree restrain'd no more :
 Higher the *Waters* climb, and still more high,
 To Trees and Hills in vain the *Wretches* fly,
 For only there a short *Reprise* they found,
 The *Trees* and lofty *Hills* themselves are drown'd :
 Whatever breath'd is lost; in Oceans Caves
 Their Bodies whelm'd, or floating on the *Waves* :
 Noah, the Universal *Wreck* survives,
 By the Great Pilot steer'd, his feeble *Vessel* lives.

V.

GENESIS, Chap. VI. Ver. 4. Chap. VII.
to the End.

15



vi. 5. God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth.

7. And the Lord said I will destroy Man, whom I have created.

8. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

14, 19. And God said make thee an Ark of Gopher-wood. --- Of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the Ark.

vii. 10, 21. The Waters of the flood were upon the earth - And all flesh died that moved upon the earth.

VIII.

VIII.

The Flood ceases, Noah goes out of the Ark, and sacrifices, God's Promise to him.

AND now Almighty Goodness calls to Mind
 The poor Remains of Nature, long confin'd
 Within their floating Vault ; The Floods decrease }
 At his Command ; tumultuous Whirlwinds cease,
 And all the jarring Elements are Peace. }

See from the teeming Ark a Second Birth
 Descending to renew the desert Earth !

Birds, Reptiles, Beasts in friendly Pairs are joyn'd,
 The same the Godlike Race of sav'd Mankind :

Noah, their Prince and Father them conveys,
 Then does of Living Turf an Altar raise,
 And to their kind Preserver kneels and prays.

Two of the fairest Birds, and Beasts he gave
 To him who them, and all the rest did save ;
 But chiefly did a grateful Heart present :

Up to high Heav'n the pleasing Odour went,
 Thus spake th' Almighty Sire, and shook the Firmament :

" While Time remains, and these fair Orbs shall roll,

" While Earth its Center knows, or Heav'n the Pole,

" Shall Nature now her steady Course pursue

" Alternate Seasons shall the World renew.

" Ye cheerful Days your constant Walk maintain !

" And, O ye Nights, assert your peaceful Reign !

" Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter's hoary Face

" Each other still succeed in Time's revolving Race !

VIII.

GENESIS, Chap. VIII. Ver. 3. 18.
to the End.

17



v. 3. The waters return'd from off the earth, and the Ark rested on the mountains of Ararat.

18. And Noah went forth, and built an Altar to the Lord, and offer'd, &c. and the Lord smelt a sweet savour, and said, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake, &c.

While the earth remains seed-time, and harvest, summer and winter shall not cease.

IX.

God renews his Covenant with Noah.
Forbids murder. The Rainbow.

AS those who scap'd from *Shipwreck*, trembling stand,
And view the *Billows* from the distant *Land*:
Fear and *Distraction* drawn in every *Face*:
So look'd our *Second Sire*, and all his *Race*:
Earth to *replenish*, what *Delight* or *Joy*,
Which wrathful *Heav'n* might soon agen destroy,
Or numerous *Beasts* their feeble *Race* o'repow'r,
Or lawless *Force*, and mutual wounds devour?

But that *Almighty Love* which knows no bound
Provides a speedy *Cure* for every *Wound*:
Give to the *Winds* your causless *Fears*, he said,
Not *You* the *Beasts*, but they their *Lords* shall dread:
The *Kingly Lion* at your sight shall flie,
Fierce *Wolves*, and spotted *Pards* glare trembling by:
Murder and *Thirst* of *Blood* shall *Laws* restrain:
Who slays another shall himself be slain.
Love, and *increase*! your numerous *Sons*, disperse,
And *Colonize* the spacious *Univerſe*.
If you a *Second Deluge* vainly fear,
Look up and see this friendly *Taken* here;
This radiant *Bow* which in the *Clouds* I place,
Nor more shall *Floods* destroy your new reviving
Race.

IX.

IX.

GENESIS, Chap. IX. Ver. 1. to 13.

19



1. And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.

2. And the fear of you, and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, &c.

6. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed.

13. I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth, &c.

X.

The Tower of Babel. The Confusion of Languages.

THE Sons of Noah, by their Saviour bless'd,
 Renew Mankind, to num'rous Tribes increas'd:
 From lofty Ararat they now descend,
 And with the Sun, their Guide, still Westward bend:
 Their Language and their Dialect the same,
 To Shinars fruitful Plain they journeying came.
 Vain of their Strength (but what is Strength in Man ?)
 A vast Attempt they in Ill-Hour began.
 See where the Tow'ry Walls of Babel rise
 And threaten, and almost surmount the Skies !
 What Hills on Hills the busy Pismires cast,
 What fruitless Care, and unavailing Haft !
 Distracted men ! Is this, is this the way
 To reach the Confines of eternal Day !
 Or did you these stupendious Buildings frame
 To boast your Pow'r, or aggrandize your Name ?
 Alike in vain ! Behold th' Almighty smile
 At your Attempts, and blast your impious Pile !
 Confus'd your Dialect, you all disperse
 In various Tribes around the Universe.

And shou'd a Second Nimrod proudly rise,
 And reassume your War against the Skies ;
 Kingdoms on Kingdoms pile to raise his Throne,
 Or wast the trembling World to reign alone :
 With equal Ease can Heav'n his Pride confound,
 And lay his shor,-liv'd Babel scatter'd on the ground.

X.

GENESIS, Chap. XI. Ver. 1. to 9.

21



v. 1. The whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

4. And they said, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven, &c.

7. The Lord said, Let us confound their language, that they may not understand one anothers speech.

8. So the Lord scattered them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

XI.

Abram and Lot part. The Assyrian Kings defeated. Abram's Congress with Melchisedec.

FROM Harans Fields to Canaan Abram went
 And in the Plains of Moreh pitch'd his Tent :
 His wealthy Nephew Lot, he with him bears,
 His God he worships and his Fortunes shares :
 Their Substance great, their Flocks and Herds so large
 When joyn'd they the depastur'd Land orecharge :
 But Lot removes to where fair Jordan falls,
 And graz'd his Flocks by Sodoms impious walls ;
 Too near Ill-Neighbours whom a Vengeance waits
 Worthy their Crimes, almost he shar'd their Fates :
 For raging War, and Thirst of Blood begins,
 Treaties are broke, and Sins are plagu'd with Sins.
 Fierce Chedorlaomer his Vassals arms
 And o'r Phœnicia pours unumber'd Swarms :
 Luxurious Sodoms Prince resists in vain,
 With Fire and Blood they cover all the Plain :
 Among the Captives, Lot ; when Abraham knew
 With his Allies he to his Rescue flew :
 Heav'n on his side engag'd ; the Victors fled,
 And their Captivity he captive led :
 On whose Return thro' Shaveh's royal Dale
 Grateful Refreshments his tir'd Host regale :
 The Great Melchizedech, of Race unknown,
 Who wore a Miter, tho' he fill'd a Throne,
 To Heav'n's Ally did these kind Presents bring,
 Himself a wondrous Prophet, Priest, and King.
 Low at his Feet did the glad Patriarch fall,
 His Blessing there receiv'd, and gave him Tythes of all,

IX.

GENESIS, Chap. XII. 5. 6. XIII. 5. 6.
11. 12. XIV. 1. 11. to the End.

23



Chap. xii. ver. 5. Abram went forth into the land of Canaan to the plain of Moreh.

xiii. 5. Lot also who went with Abram had flocks, and herds, and tents. And the land was not able to bear them.

12. Abram dwelt in Canaan, and Lot in the plain toward Sodom.

17. After his return from the slaughter of Chedor-laomer, &c. Melchisedec king of Salem brought forth bread and wine, &c. And he gave him tithes of all.

XII.

Hagar flies from her Mistress. An Angel
comforts her.

GOOD Servants shall their Masters Blessing
share,
Ev'n wandering Hagar's worth an Angel's care.
From her imperious Ladys Face she fled,
The way that to her native Regions led :
At length a Well she saw, but on the Brink
Sinks fainting down, and wants the Pow'r to drink :
Here, by her kind celestial Guardian found,
When just expiring on the Desert Ground :
He bids her to her Mistress strait repair,
Confess her Faults and make submission there,
And adds the Promise of a joyful Heir ; }
Ishmael his name ; He Beasts and Men shou'd chase
The Father of a bold unnumber'd Race,
She heard, and did th' All-seeing Goodness bless,
Who Pity'd and Reliev'd her in Distress : }
The Place preserves the wondrous Action's Fame,
And thence to distant Ages wears its name. }
-- She rose reviv'd, and to her Lady came ; }
And of her ripen'd Burthen soon releas'd
She with a welcome Son her Master's house increas'd.

XII.

GENESIS, Chap. XVI. Ver. 6, 7, 8,
9, 10.

25.



v. 6. When Sarai dealt hardly with Hagar, she fled from her face. And the Angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness :

9. And said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thy self under her hands.

10. And the Angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.

XIII.

XIII.

*Abraham entertains Three Angels. A Son
is promis'd him.*

Beneath a spacious Oak's refreshing shade
 Which o'r his Tent a friendly Arbour made,
 Repos'd the Father of the Faithful lay,
 To taste the gentle Breez and shun the scorching Day.
 Three glorious Guests before the Tent appear'd
 In human Form; the Patriarch kneel'd and fear'd:
 If mortal, asks a mortals Board they'd share,
 Or if Divine, his Sacrifice and Pray'r.
 With Candor they accept his friendly Treat,
 Around the Oak each takes his mossy Seat,
 Chearful and Grave, and eat, or seem to eat:
 When He, who most of Majesty express'd,
 Larger his Form, and brighter than the rest,
 Did hospitable Abraham thus accost,

Nor is, Great Sir! your gen'rous Friendship lost,
 You all the Bliss of happiest mortals share,
 To crown it all you only want an Heir:
 Nor shall you long; your Consort shall conceive,
 All things are possible, if you believe.
 The Patriarch bow'd, and gave his firm assent,
 And from their joyful Host th' illustrious Strangers
 went.

XIII.

GENESIS, Chap. XVIII. Ver. 1. to 10.

27



v. 6. Abraham said to Sarah, make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.

7. And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hastned to dress it.

8. And he took butter and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

XIV.

XIV.

*God reveals to Abraham the Destruction
of Sodom. He intercedes for it.*

TH E Crimes of Sodom ripe for Vengeance grown
 Two Angels hasten to destroy the Town :
 When God -- And shall I from just Abraham hide
 My secret Will, whose Faith so often try'd ?
 Who'll use his Pow'r with wise impartial Sway,
 And make his Sons and House my Laws obey ?
 Then to his Friend the hov'ring Plague foreshows,
 Who thus for Grace did humbly interpose.
 And shall the Righteous with the Guilty fall ?
 When Some offend, shall Vengeance seize on All ?
 O rather the devoted City spare,
 If only Fifty Pious Souls are there !
 I will, says God ; this gracious Answer take !
 I'll all the City spare for Fifties sake.

When Abraham thus - Let Dust and Ashes speak ! }
 If only of the number Five shou'd want }
 Wou'dst thou for lack of Five resume this Grant ? }
 No, said the Lord, I'll yet the Town forgive, }
 If of the Fifty wanting only Five.
 Lower, and still more low the Patriarch came,
 For Twenty pleads, his Answer still the same :

Yet

Yet one, his last *Effort* he trembling made,
 If only Ten were there, for *Mercy* pray'd :
 If Ten are *Righteous* there, thy *Wish* enjoy,
Zehova said, I'll not the Town *destroy*.
 And here at length the *Wondrous Treaty* ends,
Abraham departs, and *God* to *Heav'n* ascends.

“ O thou whose boundless *Pity* still the *same*
 “ Still *Just*, and *Good* -- *Zehova* is thy *Name* ! }
 “ Judge of the *World* ! our *sinful Nation* spare, }
 “ Who hast thy *Fiftys*, and thy *Thousands* there ; }
 “ Who still besiege thy *Throne* with fervent *Pray'r* : }
 “ Or if our *crying Guilt* be th' fatal *Cloud*
 “ That stops our *Vows*, yet hear, O hear our Saviour's
Blood ! }

GENESIS, Chap. XVIII. from Ver. 17. to the End.

V. 17. *The Lord* said, shall I hide from *Abraham* that thing which I do, &c.

23. *Abraham* said, wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

24. Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city; wilt thou also destroy, and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

25. Be it far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, be that far from thee: shall not the judge of all the earth do right, &c.

XV.

The destruction of Sodom. Lot is preserv'd.

NO longer now cou'd Heav'n its Bolts forbear,
No longer Sodom ripe for Vengeance, spare:
Yet those who on the fatal business go ;
While righteous Lot remains, suspend the Blow :
With an obliging Force they him convey
From those devoted Walls, a moments stay
Wou'd cost his Life ; one Glance he must not cast,
But forwards to the neighb'ring Mountains haste :
Their aged Sire his trembling Daughters joyn'd :
Loaden with Wealth his Wife came slow behind,
Yet wish'd for more ; Her Eyes she cou'd not hold,
But cast a longing Look to her remaining Gold :
-- She look'd her last, her Eyes no more her own, }
Unmov'd her Feet, rigid her Arms are grown, }
Rooted she stands a Monumental Stone. }

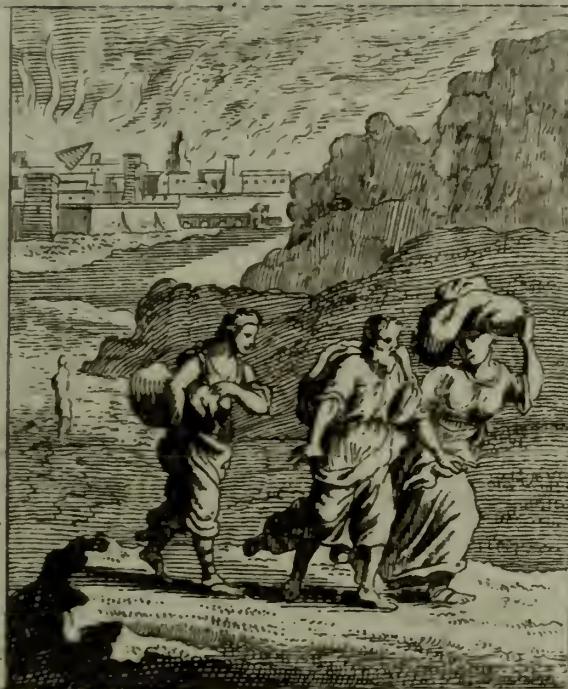
And now on Sodom's Walls the ruddy Vengeance
fell,
And pour'd from angry Heav'n inevitable Hell :
Broad Sheets of ghastly Flame involve the guilty
Town,
The golden Statues melt, the Walls come tumbling
down :
Deep in a dire Abyss their Grave and Ruin find,
And leave a noisom Lake, and sulph'rous Flames
behind.

Learn Mortals ! learn from hence to dread th'
Immortals Ire !
For here was fiery Lust reveng'd with hotter Fire.

XV.

GENESIS, Chap. XIX, Ver. 12. to 29.

31



24. The Lord rain'd upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from heaven.

25. And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

XVI.

XVI.

*Isaac born : Hagar and Ishmael cast forth,
God comforts them.*

THO' Heav'n a while *delays*, it can't *deceive*,
 And those are not *impatient*, who *believe* :
 An Hundred rolling years without an *Heir*,
 Had *Abraham* pass'd but wou'd not yet *despair* ;
 At length the welcome promis'd *Blessing* came,
 A *Son* is born, and *Isaac* is his *name* :
 Beyond her *Hopes* the joyful *Sarah* bless'd,
 To see the smiling *Infant* at her *Breast*. }
 Which when he now *forsook*, a splendid *Feast*
 For all his cheerful *Friends* the *Patriarch* made,
 And *Victims* on the smoaking *Altars* laid,
 Doubly a Father double *Thanks* he pay'd. }
 But mortal joys are *unsincere* and *vain*,
 And all our *Pleasure* soon allay'd with *Pain* : }
 Ishmael with *Scoffs* insults th' *intruding Heir*,
 Nor *Sarah*, haughty *Sarah* this cou'd bear ; }
 Hence with the *Slaves*, she said, let both away,
 Nor shall they to affront my *Isaac* stay. }
 Agen sad *Hagar* wanders thro' the *wild*,
 Loaden with *Grief*, and with her exil'd *Child* : }
 The *Water* now was spent she with her bore,
 And in the thirsty *Sands* what *Hopes* of more ? }
Her

Her Tears the only moisture to supply
Her fainting Son, tho' ev'n her Eyes grew dry
Parch'd and exhaust; nor cou'd she see him die:
One Kiss she gave, that Kiss she thought her last;
And then beneath a Bush the Child she cast:
With much of Pain he rais'd his fainting Eyes,
And for his Mother calls with feeble cries.
That boundless Pity who does all survey,
Who not disdains to aid our mortal Clay,
Tho' Angels serve him, saw their deep distress,
Nor unregarding saw, but did redress.
He bids the mournful Mother cease her Fears,
For God had heard his Voice, had heard her Tears:
Arise, said he, agen thy Ishmael take:
Of Ishmael I'll a mighty Nation make.
When near her she a Crystal Well perceives,
And with recruited Stores herself and Him relieves.

GENESIS, Chap. XXI. Ver. 2. 3.

2. Sarah bare a son at the set time of which God had spoken.
3. And Abraham called the name of his son, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.

XVII. Abraham commanded to offer Isaac. An Angel stays his Hand.

AND now to Abraham thus th' Almighty spake,
Thy Son, thine only Son, thine Isaac take,
And where Moriah's craggy Mountains rise
The Youth to him that gave him, sacrifice.

Nor did the Friend of God dispute or stay;
He knew 'twas Heaven's to order, his t' obey:
Who gave him, cou'd perform the Words he said,
Who bid him die cou'd raise him from the Dead.

Scarce had the Sun forsook th' Eōan Main
And chas'd the Shades o'r scorch'd Arabia's Plain,
When Abraham, yet a Father, leaves his Tent,
And to the Place with his lov'd Isaac went:
The thoughtful Father bore the Knife and Fire,
His Son the Wood, who thus accosts his Sire:

--- Nor Wood, nor Fire, for Sacrifice we need,
But where's the Lamb must on the Altar bleed?
Unmov'd the faithful Patriarch thus reply'd,
'Tis God who sends and he'll the Lamb provide.

And now the Victim's on the Altar bound
The Father's Hand is rais'd to give the fatal Wound:
O Piety! O Nature! Why so slow,
Ye Angels, to divert the falling Blow!

(mild)
At length 'tis done; at length by Heavn's com-
& willing Watcher flies, and stops his Hand:
When from the Throne a voice like Thunder broke
And to the Patriarch thus th' Almighty spoke.

"Enough, my Friend! enough thy Piety is shown:
"Thy matchless Faith shall be to after-Ages known:
"I by my self have sworn thy num'rous Seed I'll bless,
The gates of thoe that hate them shall thy Seed possels:
"The Saviour of the World shall from thy Stock arise
"To atone his Father's Wrath a willing Sacrifice.

XVII.

GENESIS, Chap. XXII. Ver. 1. to 3.
6. to 12. 16. to 18.

35



v. 2. God said, take thy son Isaac, and offer him for a burnt offering.

6. Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering; and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife: and they went both of them together.

9. And laid the wood in order; and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood, &c.

XVIII.

*Abraham sends his Servant to take a Wife
for his Son Isaac.*

Hoary with Age the Patriarch now appears,
And bends beneath a Century of Years :
Concern'd for his restor'd miraculous Son,
His faithful Servant call'd, he thus begun.

-- *Swear, Swear,* said he, by him who rules the Sky,
Who made this Earth, and yon bright Orbs on high,
Thou'l not thy Master's Family disgrace,
Nor match my Son to Canaans hated Race ;
But back to Aramean Fields repair,
And from my Kindred chuse his Consort there :
Attent the Servant hears, to all he yields,
And speeds away for Padans distant Fields :
Nor empty he nor unattended goes,
But Ten fair Camels of his Masters chose,
With Spice and Gold, which both th' Arabia's bless'd,
And all the various Treasures of the East.

(Scarce wealthier Caravans in after-Days
Shall Ishmaels Sons to their Impostors Tomb,
Or from th' Armuzian Gulf, and Persia's shores,
Or old Damascus, earthly Paradise,
In safety Pilot o'r the sandy Main.)

And now the Sun with faint declining Beams
Strikes the tall Hills, and gilds the Crystal Streams :
Arriv'd, the pious Trav'ler kneel'd and pray'd,
Nor long before he saw the charming Maid,
Whom for his Master's Bosom Heav'n design'd :
The Message done his aged Lord enjoyn'd,
He gains the Virgin's, and her Friends consent,
And soon rejoicing home with his fair Charge he
went.

XVIII.

GENESIS, Chap. XXIV. from Ver. 17.
to 20.

37



v. 17. The servant ran to meet her, and said, let me (I pray thee) drink a little water of thy pitcher.

18. And she said, drink my lord: and she hasted and let down her pitcher upon her hand and gave him drink.

19. And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.

20. And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

XIX.

Rebecca being barren, Isaac prays for her.
Esau and Jacob born. Their conditions
foretold.

VAin Man, when of his darling *Wish* possess'd
Still something wants which leaves him still
unbless'd.

We ask of *Heaven* and murmur when *deny'd*,
We ask fair *Children* and a *beauteous Bride*.
But *Heav'n* alone foresees the dark *Event*,
And whether they in *Wrath* or *Mercy* sent:

And is there no *Relief* for mortal Care
No *Balm* for all our *Wounds*? - There is - 'Tis
Pray'r :

By this, *unshock'd*, the fiercest *Storms* we bear,
By this *remove*; new *Light* and *Joy* receive,
And *breath agen* a while, and *think* we live.
This all the *Just* of old, this *Isaac* try'd:
No smiling *Heir* to bless his lovely *Bride*:
Can *Heav'n* forget what *Heav'n* itself decreed,
Where are his *Hopes*, and where the *Promis'd Seed*!
His barren *Wealth*, th' effect of all his Care
Must *Rapine* seize, or thankless *Strangers* share?
The fruitful *Poor* he *bless'd* - Yet did he not *despair*.

Full Twenty Years he pray'd, nor pray'd in vain,
But does at length a doubted Blessing gain :
The sad *Rebecca's* barren Womb's unseal'd,
And of her struggling Birth the Fate's reveal'd :
" Two Nations, thus said God, are in thy *Wimb*
" Two different *Warring People* thence shall come
" The younger *Hand* the Scepter doom'd to sway,
' The Elder, tho' reluctant, must obey.

And now her ripen'd Burthen press'd to share
The cheerful Light and tast sweet Vital Air :
A double Birth from her glad Labor came,
Rough *ESAU* was the First, *JACOB* the Younger's
Name.

GENESIS, Chap. XXV. Ver. 21. to 26.

23. The Lord said unto her, two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels : and the one people shall be stronger than the other people ; and the elder shall serve the younger.

24. And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

25. And the first came out red; all over like an hairy garment : and they called his name *Esau*.

26. And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on *Esau's* heel ; and his name was called *Jacob*.

XX.

Jacob gets the Blessing from Esau.

Swift Hours and winged Moments, why so fast,
And O ye Ages ! who commands your Hast ?
How soon the Bloom of Life and Youth are flown ?
How soon we grow unto our Selves unknown ?
Decrepid Isaac now has lost his Sight,
His Orbs in vain attempt the cheerful Light ;
Fair Heav'n, and Man's dear Face they search in
vain:

His heavier Sences only firm remain :
Touch, Hearing, Taste, and Smell, unbroke and
strong,

And still the glimm'ring Lamp of Life prolong.

-- But his Immortal Mind renew's its Sight,
More quick and vig'rous grown when wing'd for flight
And on the Ridge of Life can farther see
Within the Realms of dark Futurity.

Of those Two Sons which bless'd his Nuptial Bed
He his lov'd *Esau* call'd, and thus he said.

--- Hence to the Woods my Son ! and swift as wind
Go chase the lofty Stag, or nimble Hind :
When Heav'n thy Labor crowns with wish'd success
Return, and thee before my Death I'll bless.

His Mother heard, her favour'd Jacob sent
His lingring Brother's Blessing to prevent :
The Father bless'd, unknowing his Deceit,
And God confirm'd his Word, and made it Fate :
Thus, Good from Ill, unbounded Wisdom draws,
And thus just Heav'n disposes what it did not cause.

XX.

GENESIS, Chap. XXVII. 1. to Ver. 23,

41



v. 17. Rebecca gave the savory meat, and the bread which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

18. And he came unto his father, and said, my father: and he said, here am I; who art thou my son?

19. And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy first-born; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.

23. And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he blessed him.

XXI.

XXI.

Esaу complains of his Brother's supplanting him. Isaac blesses Eсау.

W^{ear}y and faint returning from the Chase
 To meet his Father's Blessing and Embrace
 Young Eсау comes, and begs he'd deign to share
 Th' Effects of his Good-Fortune and his Care :
 Trembled the Patriarch when his Voice he knew ;
 " If thou my Son, my Eсау, where and who,
 " Where is th' Impostor did thy Blessing steal ?
 " Nor can I that reverse which Heav'n did seal.
 Fierce Eсау hears, with loud and bitter Cries
 Accuses partial Fate, and rends the Skies.
 O Father, Brother ! in my ruin joyn'd !
 A Brother false, a Father as unkind !
 And have you then exhausted all your Store,
 He adds with Tears, not One, One Blessing more
 Can you upon your once-lov'd Son bestow,
 Who strains these Knees, and at your Feet will grow ?
 Of that, at least, a Brother can't deprive ;
 That, ev'n to Eсау, may a Father give.

The

The Patriarch thus, I him thy Lord have made:
By Nations serv'd, by Suppliant Foes obey'd:
With Corn and Wine did I his Race sustain;
Yet thou, at length, shalt break his servile Chain:
The Dew of Heav'n shall on thy Lot descend,
The fertile Giebe uncommon Blessings lend,
And Triumphs thy victorious Sword attend.

But half content did Esau thence depart,
And treasur'd Deep Revenge within his canker'd Heart.

GENESIS, Chap. XXVII. from Ver.
30. to 41.

v. 31. Esau also made savory meat, and brought it unto his father; and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his sons venison, that thy soul may bless me, &c.

35. And Isaac said, thy brother came with subtlety, and hath taken away thy blessing.

39. Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above.

40. And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother: and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

XXII.

Rebecca sends Jacob to Padan-Aram.
Who sees a Vision of Angels in the way.

AND now his fearful Mother, Jacob sends
To Bethuel, and her Aramœan Friends :
Who, when Still Night her sable wings had spread,
A Stone his Pillar, and the Earth his Bed,
Weary with trav'ling takes his welcome Rest,
With glorious Dreams, and heav'nly Visions bless'd :
He saw fair Angels from the Clouds descend,
And to the Place their shining Footsteps bend :
A wondrous Scale he saw from Earth arise
Whose lofty top was hid within the Skies.
Th' Angelic Forms were now no longer fair,
Their Rays eclips'd, for God himself was there,
When loe a Voice was heard, a Voice divine,
“ I am thy Father's God, and will be thine ! ”
“ The Land where thou a Stranger, now dost rest ”
“ Shall be by thy unnumber'd Seed possess'd ”
“ And all the World shall in thy Seed be bless'd ”
“ Where e'r thou go'st my Favour shall attend ”
“ My watchful Angels shall from Ill defend : ”
“ Nor will I leave thee till I thee restore ”
“ Till all my Words I have perform'd, and more ”
He said, the glorious Visions were too bright ;
Sleep flies away, at once they take their Flight,
And modest Day arose, and shone with paler
Light.

XXII.

GENESIS, Chap. XXVIII. Ver. 10.
to 15.

45



v. 10. 11. Jacob went out from Beersheba, and lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night: and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12. And he dreamed, and behold, a ladder set upon the earth, and the top of it reached unto heaven: and behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

13. And behold the Lord stood above it, and said I am the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.

XXIII.

XXIII.

Jacob's Vow.

THE Pious Pilgrim struck with sacred Aw,
And deep revolving what he heard and saw ;
While yet the Sun did scarce his Beams disclose
Thus to himself, as he from Earth arose.

Well may I tremble, when such Cause for Fear,
How dreadful is this Place, for God is here !

'Tis Holy, 'tis Divine -- Away Profane !

What mortal Strength such Brightness may su-
stain !

What sacred Horror trills thro' every Vein !

The Gates of Heav'n are here expanded wide ;

The King of Kings does here himself reside :

And may the Pow'r who fills it, not despise

My grateful, tho' my humble Sacrifice !

Then rais'd the Stone on which he lean'd his Head,

Pure Oyl he pour'd thereon, and thus he said :

" God of my Fathers ! My Petition grant !

" Let me not daily Bread, and Rayment want !

" O prosper, and preserve ! I ask no more,

" And to my Father's House in Peace restore !

" So, thou my God, this Place thy House shall be,

" And Tythes of all thou giv'st I'll consecrate to Thee."

XXIII.

GENESIS, Chap. XXVIII. Ver. 18.
to the End.

47



v. 18. Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oyl upon the top of it.

19. And he called the name of that place Beth-el.

20. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, if God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on;

21. So that I come again to my fathers house in peace: then shall the Lord be my God.

22. And this stone which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth to thee.

XXIV.

XXIV.

Jacob comes to the Well of Haran: sees Rachel. Is received by Laban.

ENcourag'd thus, his Journy he pursues,
Till Harans Eastern Fields at length he views,
Cover'd with Flocks which graz'd the fertile Plains
Conducted and secur'd by harmless Swains.

The Sun shot fiercely from the heighth of Day,
Panting for Heat the Flocks and Shepherds lay
Around a limpid Fountains Brim; but none
Cou'd from the Entrance move the pondrous Stone:
Twice Six of our degen'rate weaker Race
The rocky Fragment hardly cou'd displace;
With ease the Hebrew throws it from the brink,
And makes wide way for all the Flocks to drink;
For Laban's Flock he sees approaching near,
He sees their lovely Shepherdess appear,
The Charms of Innocence and Beauty wear.
With more than Friendship in his Eyes and Face
He look'd and blush'd, and ran to her Embrace:
His Name and Kindred to the Maid reveals
With trembling Lips, and scarce his Love conceals.
Rich Laban hears, he meets him at the Gates,
His Kinsman, to his House with courteous welcome
waits.

G E N E S I S, Chap. XXIX. Ver. 10. 14.

10. When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban; that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mothers brother.

11. And

11. And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept.

14. And Laban said to him, surely thou art my bone and my flesh : and he abode with him the space of a month.

XXV.

Jacob loves Rachel, and serves for her Seven Years.

ILL Apes of ancient Truths, the Pagans feign
That Love transform'd Apollo to a Swain :
See here the Founder of the Sacred Race
For Sev'n long years that pleasing Toil embrace !
His Sheep their Master's watchful Eye confess,
Tho' more he heeds their charming Shepherdess :
Or on some hanging Mountains verdant Side,
Or near fair Streams which thro' the Valleys glide,
Or on a flow'ry Bank, beneath the shade
By spreading Palms and lofty Cedars made,
Which screen'd the Sun, but fann'd his inward Fire,
He sat, and sung, and touch'd his tuneful Lyre.
He sung what pass'd a vulgar Shepherds Lays,
How God did this fair World from Chaos raise ;
How, Man, its Lord, he made, and from his Side,
(What cannot Heav'n?) educ'd his beauteous Bride;
When first they met, what Joy, what strange Surprise,
And all their bless'd Employ in Paradise.

Nor did his Virtuous Suit successless prove,
For Verse and Musick ne'r were Foes to Love :
Her Heart he wins, he wins her Friends assent,
And brings the beauteous Prize in triumph to his Tent.

GENESIS, Chap. XXIX. Ver. 18
to 20.

18. Jacob loved Rachel, and serv'd seven years for her; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

XXVI.

Jacob's departure. Laban pursues him.
God appears to Laban: He makes a Covenant with Jacob.

FUll twenty Years the happy Exile stay'd
In Harans Fields, his Labors well repay'd :
So well his faithful Industry was bless'd
His Flocks and Herds thro' all the Plains increas'd.
A num'rous Offspring crown'd his nuptial Bed,
Nor they the Scorn of Fools for want of Bread.

Yet something still of Happiness behind :
His once dear Home he often call'd to mind,
And Father's House ; fain wou'd he close his Eyes,
And see the aged Sire before he dies.

With Heav'n to Friend at length he homeward went,
Nor jealous Laban knew his Son's intent :
By gentle Journeys still to West he leads,
And Paths well known with his fair Troop he treads.
They thro' rough ways, thro' various Regions pass'd,
Euphrates cross'd and Bashans Fields, at last

Fair

Fair Gilead reach'd, he hopes the Danger's o'r,
His richly laden Bark in sight of Shore :
But angry *Laban* hears, and like the *Wind*
With his tempestuous Friends came swift behind ;
The feeble Troop o'retake, and nothing breath
But *Wrath* and *Vengeance*, *Slavery* and *Death* :
Too late to fly, too weak to meet the Foe :

But interposing *Heav'n* put by the *Blow* ;
For God a Visionary Scene display'd,
And thus by Night to trembling *Laban* said :
“ Touch not my Servant, my peculiar Care,
“ And ev'n the least provoking *Word* forbear :
I th' Morn they meet, and in a League combine,
Which ragged Heaps of Stones to after-Ages sign.

GENESIS, Chap. XXXI. 17. 20. 21.
23. 24. 25. 44. to 51.

v. 21. Jacob fled with all that he had toward Mount Gilead.

24. And God came to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said unto him, take heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.

51. And Laban said to Jacob, behold this heap, and behold this pillar which I have cast betwixt me and thee ;

52. This heap be witness, and this pillar be witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap and this pillar unto me, for harm, &c.

XXVII.

Esau comes to meet Jacob. He sends a Present to appease him. He wrestles with an Angel : His name is called Israel.

THIS Storm no sooner pass'd but others rise,
And with new Tumults fill the angry Skies;
For now proud Selahs craggy Rock appears
And Edoms Realms ; the conscious Jacob fears ;
Fears his Supplanted Brother's Arms, and sent
The distant gath'ring Mischief to prevent :
His Messengers ungrateful Tidings bring
Returning swift -- (*Ill news is on the Wing,*
The Good comes slow behind with lazy Feet :))
Fierce Esau with Four Hundred Men they meet,
All on full march his Brother's Camp to find,
Panting they come, and think him close behind.
The Patriarch's with the doubtful news distress'd,
And various Passions struggled in his Breast :
First Heav'n by Pray'r did on his Side engage,
And then to melt his injur'd Brother's Rage
Large Doves of Oxen, Sheep, and Camels brings,
When joyn'd, a Present not unworthy Kings :
Then o'r the Ford his num'rous Household sent,
He only stay'd behind, and kept his Tent ;
And as he storms high Heav'n with pious Pray'r,
In Human Form an Angel enters there ;
Whom Jacob seiz'd, the heav'nly Warrior press'd,
Nor wou'd he let him go, himself unbless'd : }
The Angel thus -- I grant thee thy Request : }
Jacob no more, thy name shall Israel be,
For thou with God and Man hast gain'd the victory.

XXVII.

GENESIS, Chap. XXXII. Ver. 3. 6. 9.
13. to 15. 22. 24. to 28.

53



v. 6. The messenger said, thy brother Esau comes to meet thee, and four hundred men.

7. Then Jacob was greatly afraid, and took of that which came to his hand, a present for Esau his brother.

24. 25. There wrestled a man with Jacob, and when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh: and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joyn, as he wrestled with him.

28. And he said, thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

XXVIII.

GENESIS, Chap. XXXIII. Ver. i. 8.
to ii. 16.

The kind meeting of Esau and Jacob.

THE Patriarch now assur'd of heavenly Aid
When first the Sun his radiant Face dis-
play'd

Crosses the murmuring Brook, no more affraid :
His Brother's Troops he sees, not unprepar'd,
He knew he had himself a Stronger Guard.

But pow'rful Heav'n had chang'd his Heart
before,

'Twas moulded new, revengeful now no more :
Fury and Murder, direful Forms remove,
Soft Pity them succeeds, and mild fraternal Love :
He came to Guard and Welcome, not contend,
And only knew the Brother and the Friend.

When Joy wou'd give him leave his Thoughts to
vent,

He asks him what those Doves behind him meant ?
'Tis only a small Present, he rejoyn'd,
Tho' far too mean, for you, my Lord, design'd.
I have enough, my Brother, spare your cost
Replys the Prince ; on me 'tis only lost :
So long he urg'd till he his Gifts receives,
And Jacob not displeas'd, upon his Journey leaves.

XXIX.

XXIX.

GENESIS, Chap. XXXIV. Ver. 1. 2.

25. 26. 30. 31.

Dinah ravish'd, The Shechemites slain by
Simeon and Levi.

TO Shalem's Fields did Jacob now repair,
 His Tent he pitch'd, and built an Altar there:
 The while young Dinah, innocent and fair,
 Of Home and rural Pleasures weary grown
 Steals from her Father's Tent to see the Town,
 And with her Canaanitish Friends resort
 To Hamor's Palace, and luxurious Court.
 Young Shechem saw, he treated and caress'd,
 A lawless Fire inflam'd the Princes Breast,
 He seiz'd the struggling Maid, and all his Wish pos-
 Simeon and Levi heard, they both conspire, (less'd:
 (Enflam'd with Wrath, as Shechem with Desire,) Severe Revenge for this Affront to take,
 And kill the People for their Prince's sake :
 By guileful Arts they an Advantage gain,
 And the defenceless Citizens are slain :
 Cover'd with Blood they to their Father come,
 And with 'em lead their mournful Sister home :
 No Joy their Conquest brought his peaceful Tent,
 Their rash Revenge he chides, and dreads th' Event :
 His eager Sons, their Passion scarce allay'd,
 Defend the cruel Fact, and thus they said :
 " Can ought for such a Crime be too severe :
 " It was too much, too much for Man to bear.
 " With his hot Blood we've purg'd that foul disgrace
 " The Ravisher has fix'd on us, and all our Race.

XXX.

G E N E S I S, Chap. XXXV. Ver. 16.
19. 20.

Rachels Death. Her Burial, and Tomb.

AH, why shou'd cheated mortals wish and chuse,
Or the dear charming Object ever lose !
Has Love itself no more of Bliss to give,
Or fears too soon we'd all our Joys outlive !
Thro' Want and Sorrow long the Patriarch strove,
And softned all his Cares with virtuous Love ;
The rugged Tempest pass'd, the Storms were o'r,
His Treasure's lost upon the wish'd-for Shore :
His Rachel, his long Labor's happy Prize,
Joy of his Heart, and Light of his glad Eyes,
Himself the Cause, in ling'ring Torments dies : }
Scarce cou'd his Piety Despair prevent,
Or make him with so vast a Loss content.
What was the World to him when she was gone ?
A Desert all, a Skie without a Sun.

Yet will he live, her Ashes to perfume,
And scatter Tears and Roses round her Tomb :
A Marble Pillar o'r her Dust he rears,
Which this inscrib'd to After-Ages wears.

“ BEAUTY and LOVE are in this Vault enshrin'd,
“ While he who lost 'em both stays languishing behind.

XXXI.

GENESIS, Chap. XXXVII. Ver. 5.
to 11.

Joseph's Dreams. His Brethren hate him.

CAN Envy, Hatred, and Ambition reign }
 With harmless Shepherds on their humble }
 Ev'n there we search for Happiness in vain: (Plain!) }
 Against a Fav'rite too they there combine,
 With less of Art, but still the same design:
 They on another's Ruin hope to rise,
 And for a Dream wou'd Joseph sacrifice.
 He thought he saw the Fields with Harvest crown'd,
 And in large Sheaves the golden Blessings bound;
 His Brother's Sheaves to his, obeisance pay'd;
 They heard, and thus with scornful Taunts they said:
 Is that strong Hand a Scepter doom'd to sway,
 While we and all our Father's House obey?

Agen he *dreams*, the Sun and Moon appear,
 Elev'n fair Stars which weaker Lustre wear
 Compose their Train; they all in *consult* meet,
 Humbly *submit*, and bow beneath his Feet:
 The Patriarch hear'd, his forward Son reprov'd,
 Tho' with the weighty Omen not unmov'd:
 He treasures up his *Dreams*, content to wait
 Till lab'ring Time disclos'd the deep Resolves of Fate.

XXXII.

Joseph sold to the Ishmaelites by his Brethren, and carried into Egypt.

Near Shechem's ruin'd Walls the Patriarchs led
 Their Father's Flocks, and there securely fed ;
 From thence, (the Fields depastur'd) farther drive
 Till they at Dothan's fertile Plains arrive :
 Young Joseph goes, commanded by his Sire
 To find the Ten, and of their Health enquire ; }
 Discern'd at Distance, they his Death conspire : }
 He comes, they cry, our future Lord let's kill,
 And see if then he can his Dreams fulfil.
 Reuben, of Nature merciful, and mild,
 Allays their Rage, and seeks to save the Child :
 Into a Pit the Innocent they cast,
 And careless seat themselves to their repast :
 As chanc'd a Band of Ishmaels Sons came by
 With Spices, Balm, and Myrrh, approaching nigh,
 Thus Judah to his listning Brethren said :
 What Gain if each upon his guilty Head
 Our Brother's Blood we draw ? Our selves let's
 clear }
 To these we'll sell the Youth, nor need we fear
 Of him or of his Dreams again to hear. }
 The motion pleas'd, he's sold, the Price is pay'd,
 And thro' the Deserts he to Mizraims Realms con-
 vey'd.

XXXII.

GENESIS, Chap. XXXVII. Ver. 12.
to 28.

59



v. 26. Judah said unto his brethren, what profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his bloud ?

27. Come, and let us sell to him the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him ; for he is our brother, and our flesh : and his brethren were content.

28. Then there passed by Midianites, merchantmen ; and they drew and lift up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver : and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

XXXIII.

XXXIII.

Jacob laments for his Son Joseph.

THE Brethren now with Fraud their Fact disguise,
 And their Injustice must conceal with Lies :
 His Coat of various Colours richly made,
 Distain'd with Blood is to his Sire convey'd :
 The Coat too well he knew, with Grief o'rpow'rd,
 'Tis his, 'tis his, he cries, my Son's devour'd,
 My Joseph is no more -- Behold him tear
 With loud Laments his Garments and his Hair !
 His goodly Robes he into Sackcloth turns,
 Cover'd with Dust in deep Despair he mourns.
 His num'rous Sons and all his House arise
 And strive to ease his Cares ; too late, he cries,
 And Hope and Comfort now alike defies : }
 Ah my Lov'd Son ! shall I thy Loss survive ?
 When Joseph is no more shall Jacob live ?
 Heavier ye Griefs ! make haste ye ling'ring Cares.
 And quickly press to Earth these Hoary Hairs :
 As fast as an Old Man can move, I'll come,
 And meet thee once agen, my Joseph, in the Tomb.

XXXIII.

GENESIS, Chap. XXXVII. from Ver.
31. to 35.

61



31. They took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood.

32. And they sent the coat of many colours, and brought it to their father; and said, this have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

33. And he knew it, and said, it is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him: Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

34. And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

XXXIV

XXXIV.

Joseph tempted by his Mistress, he refuses her ; is wrongfully accus'd, and imprison'd.

VICE always is a Slave, but Virtue's free :
Joseph, tho' sold, enjoys his Liberty :
 His Master loves his Industry and Truth,
 His Lady views too oft his blooming Youth ;
 Too soon a lawless Fire inflames her Breast,
 Which robs her Mind of Peace, her Eyes of Rest :
 She looks, she sighs, she languishes in vain,
 The lovely Youth regardleis of her Pain :
 In vain her Sex's well-known Arts she tries ;
 He dares not trust himself, nor trust her Eyes,
 But shuns her sight, and conquers whilst he flies. }
 She still persists, so wild her Passion grown,
 Till Shame, the last Reserve of Virtue's gone :
 She seiz'd the Youth, attacks with Syrens Tears,
 And tells him what's unfit for virtuous Ears :
 In vain he Gratitude and Conscience press'd,
 Blind to her Charms, and Deaf to her Request,
 And twin'd at last the Serpent from his Breast. }
 With other Fires the slighted Beauty burns,
 Defeated Lust to Hate and Vengeance turns :
 Seize, seize the Ravisher, aloud she cries,
 Resolv'd the guiltless Youth to sacrifice :
 Silent he stood, yet bold, with no Defence
 Besides his Conscience, and his Innocence ;
 Enrag'd his Lord commands ; they drag him thence,
 Loaden with Chains to Dungeons deep convey,
 Remov'd from Heav'n's sweet Light, and least approach of Day.

XXXIV.

GENESIS, Chap. XXXIX. from Ver. 7.
to 20.

63



v. 7. His masters wife cast her eyes upon Joseph ;
and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, &c.

11. And Joseph went into the house to do his busi-
ness ; and there was none of the men of the house there
within.

12. And she caught him by his garment, saying lie
with me : and he left his garment in her hand, and
fled, and got him out.

13. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had
left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth.

14. That she called unto the men of her house, &c.

XXXV.

XXXV.

Pharaoh's Dreams. Joseph interprets them.

Ambition sinks when tow'ring to the Skies,
 But humble Virtue from the Dust shall rise :
 Young Joseph by his Chains illustrious grown,
 Drawn from the Dungeon shares great Pharaoh's Throne.
 Thither he comes to save the sinking State, (Throne.
 Forewarn'd by wondrous Dreams, and big with Fate:
 As on his Couch the Monarch slumb'ring lay
 These Visionary Scenes did Heav'n display :
 On Nilus's slimy Banks he thought he stood,
 And saw ascending from the Parent-Flood
 Sev'n large, and milk-white Kine, well flesh'd and fair,
 Which to the Meadows ran, and pastur'd there :
 A second Sev'n succeeds deform'd and lean ;
 And, while intent he view'd the wond'rous Scene,
 Attack the former, them they soon o'rpow'r,
 The Sev'n deform'd the beauteous Seven devour,
 Agen he dreams -- Seven Ears of Corn ascend,
 And with their weight the Stalk beneath 'em bend :
 Sev'n others them succeed, not far behind,
 But thin, and blasted with the burning wind ;
 Yet these with speed devour the Full and Fair.
 The King awakes, and seiz'd with anxious Care
 He both th' important Dreams to Joseph told,
 And thus did he their mystic Sence unfold

The Dream is One, in various Figures dress'd,
 Sev'n Years of Plenty are by both express'd :
 To these, Sev'n Years of Famine shall succeed,
 When Egypt all her boasted Stores will need :
 When Plenty comes, let Pharaoh then provide
 That those long barren Years may be with Corn sup-
 ply'd.

XXXV.

XXXV.

GENESIS, Chap. XLI, Ver. 14. to 36.

65



v. 15. Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream, to interpret it.

16. And Joseph answered Pharaoh saying, it is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace, &c.

26. The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one.

27. And the seven thin and ill-favoured kine that came up after them, are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east-wind, shall be seven years of famine, &c.

XXXVI.

Joseph's Preferment. His Marriage, and his Two Children.

THE Monarch hears with Joy and strange surprise,

*Wondrous Young Man, belov'd of Heav'n, he cries,
Egypt's too poor a just Reward to give,
Yet, what a grateful Nation can, receive.*

*My Viceroy thou, thro' all my Realms obey'd,
To thee their Saviour, be their homage pay'd.*

*With speed he bids the bright Regalia bring,
And him proclaim their Father, and their King.*

*He takes the Royal Signet from his Hand,
And with it gives unlimited Command :*

*Rich Chains of Gold his graceful Neck adorn,
Which an inglorious Iron weight had worn :
High on his stately Chariot rais'd he rode,
Admir'd, ador'd by all the shouting Crowd.*

Nor wants a Bride of beauteous Mind and Face,
Proud of his Heart, tho she of Princely Race :
Two lovely Sons she did to Joseph bear ;
They Smile, and he forgets his former Care ;
Of foregone Ills the very Trace remov'd,
Great without Envy, He, and without Flattery lov'd.

XXXVI.

GENESIS, Chap. XLI. from Ver. 37.
to 45. 50. to 52.

57



v, 44. Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

45. And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-paaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Poti-pherah priest of On: and Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

50. And unto Joseph were born two sons, before the years of famine came: which Asenath the daughter of Poti-pherah priest of On, bare unto him.

XXXVII. GENESIS, XLI. The Famine begins. Joseph's Brethren, &c.

TIME now had ripen'd Fate, and on the Spheres
 Had spun the first, bless'd Week of plenteous
 The Granaries are fill'd by Joseph's Care, (Years:
 And all against th' approaching Storm prepare ;
 Which now arrives, a dreadful Famine reigns,
 Nor Father Nile cou'd bless his Egypts Plains :
 They on their unexhausted Stores rely,
 And forein Regions can from thence supply ;
 Old Jacob hears, and sends his Sons to buy ;
 For Canaans fertile Fields their Want confess,
 Scorch'd like Arabia's Sandy Wilderness.
 His Benjamin alone behind 'em stays,
 The Second Hope of his declining Days :
 The Ten to Egypt come, by Joseph known,
 Tho' to his Brethren he a Stranger grown :
 Roughly he asks 'em whence they came, and why ?
 Trembling and pale, from Canaan, they reply
 To purchase Food -- Rather the Land to spy
 From Lubims wast, or Cush, our ancient Foe
 He fierce, rejoins -- With suppliant Voice and low
 Agen they plead their Truth, and thus began,
 We once Twelve happy Sons of one Old Man ;
 One his untimely Fate long since did find,
 The Youngest with his Father stays behind.

Let this appear, you vindicate your Truth ;
 Replies the Prince, but go, and bring the Youth :
 The while this Pledge shall your Return secure,
 Or just Rewards of broken Faith endure.

Simeon, to Blood and Murder most inclin'd
 When him they sold, he bids his Servants bind ;
 The rest return with Corn, he stays in Chains behind.

XXXVIII. GENESIS, CHAP. XLIII. XLIV.

THeir num'rous Household soon exhaust their store
 LeanWant appears, and makes 'em wish for more
 Yet dare they not to Mizraims Fields repair,
 Their Brother left in Chains an Hostage there,
 Unless the Youngest now the Journy share : }
 Their mournful Father yields a forc'd assent,
 Away his Benjamin, his Darling went : }
 At length arriv'd at Joseph's Princely Seat
 He mildly with 'em thus begins to treat.

And does th' Old Sire of whom ye spake, still share
 The cheerful Light, and tast th' Aetherial Air?
 He does, Great Sir! tho' Old and full of Days,
 The Ten reply, and for your Welfare prays.
 Agen he views 'em with attentive Eyes,
 And Benjamin among the Crowd espies ;
 With hast he flees to his retir'd Alcove,
 And vents in Show'rs of Tears, fraternal Love,
 Returning soon, he treats his Hebrew Friends,
 And loaden back with Corn, rejoicing sends :
 But short their Joy, and but in vain their Hast,
 The Steward had a massy Goblet plac'd,
 So Joseph will'd, within the Youngers Sack ;
 He soon o'r takes, and brings 'em trembling back :
 The fatal Bowl with Benjamin was found
 And he secur'd ; when prostrate on the Ground
 Thus Judah pleads -- on me, on me, let all
 The Guilt and Punishment unpity'd fall :
 But, Oh! this unadverting Youth forgive!
 Let him, or rather let his Father live!
 If him he miss, he dies, nor dar'd we come
 Till I his Surety to return him home :
 Here rather let me fall, if fall I must,
 Than bring my aged Sire with Sorrow to the Dust.

XXXIX. Joseph makes himself known
to his Brethren. He sends for his Father.

NO longer Joseph cou'd himself refrain,
But struggling Nature broke th' uneasy Chain:
He bids 'em clear the Room, the Crowd obey,
And none besides his Wond'ring Brethren stay;
Then -- *I am Joseph*, said, nor needed more,
Tho' humbly prostrate on the Earth before,
They'd now have farther gone, and wish its Womb,
And darkest Shades their kind immediate Tomb:
Agen with gentle words their minds he chears,
And with reviving Smiles dispells their Fears:
The Youngest first embrac'd with friendly Tears,
Then all the Rest; he bids their Grief forbear
For God to save their Lives had plac'd him there
Five dreadful Years of Famine yet remain,
No Harvest shou'd requite the Tiller's Pain:
Return, my aged Father bring with hast,
I'll feed you all until the Dearth be pass'd:
Of Egypt's Dainties he a Present sends,
And bids 'em on the way continue Friends.
Arriv'd they to their aged Sire relate
His Joseph's Glory and his alter'd Fate:
Too big th' unwieldy Joy, too vast the News,
Long did his fainting Heart, Belief refuse:
But when he saw the Carriages appear,
And did his pious Sons kind message hear;
Forgotten Joy shines in his lightn'd Eyes,
And thus the aged Sire in Extasies:
" Shall these chill Veins new Life and Warmth re-
" And does my lost lamented Joseph live? (ceive,
" Tho' long the Journey, all my Strength I'll try
" To see and bless my Son, my Joseph, e'r I die.

XXXIX.

GENESIS, Chap. XLV. Ver. 1. to 16.



v. 1. Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him ; and he cried, cause every man to go out from me : and there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

v. 13. And said, ye shall tell my father, &c. and ye shall haste, and bring down my father hither.

v. 14. And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept ; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

v. 15. Moreover, he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them : and after that, his brethren talked with him,

XL.

Jacob with his Family goes into Egypt,
Joseph meets him; and presents him,
and Five of his Brethren to Pharaoh.

FOR Zoan's Fields, and deep retentive lay
Old Jacob thro' the Desert takes his way;
Agen he sees his much-lov'd Joseph's Face
Who from his Chariot leaps and runs with Tears to
his Embrace:

Then brings to Court the Venerable Sire;
The Nobles press to see him, and admire,
Ev'n Pharaoh not disdains to ask his Age:
--- Evil and short has been my Pilgrimage;
A Century and Half t' has not surpass'd,
Tho' longer far my Ancestors did last.
He said, and bless'd the King, and from him went,
And Joseph next his Brethren did present;
Five of the Tallest and of graceful Mien,
By Pharaoh not unworthy to be seen:
He asks 'em, what their way of Life had been? {
-- They -- We from our Youth were humble Swains,
And us'd to feed our Flocks in Canaans Plains,
But all our Pastures now are scorch'd and burn'd,
And like Arabia's Sandy Deserts turn'd:
To You, Great Sir! we all for Refuge fly,
Without your Aid, our famish'd Flocks must die,
In Goshens fertile Fields we beg to rest.
The Monarch bears, and smiles, and grants 'em their
Request.

XL.

GENESIS, Chap. XLVI. XLVII. to
Ver. II.

73



Chap. xlvi. 29. Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, &c.

xlvii. And he took some of his brethren, even five men, and presented them unto Pharaoh, &c.

7. And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh : and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

8. And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, how old art thou ?

9. And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, the days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years : few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.

XL.

XLI.

Jacob's last Sickness. He sends for Joseph, and blesses his Two Sons.

AND now the Patriarch finds his Sp'rits deeyay,
 And drooping Life wear silently away:
 His sinking Eyes, heavy with Cares and Age
 Approaching Death's long Iron Sleep presage:
 For Joseph, e'r he must the World forsake,
 He sends, his long, his last Adieu to take :
 His Life's weak Lamp gave yet one cheerful blaze,
 When he arrives ; he tries himself to raise,
 And bless his Son, who lowly Rev'rence pay'd,
 While thus with pain th' expiring Patriarch said :

Grieve not my Son ! mature I yield to Fate,
 I've liv'd enough, nor ask a longer Date :
 Yet one Request you must not me deny,
 Swear to perform't and I in Peace shall die :
 'Tis -- that in Canaan you'd my Bones inter,
 In Ephron's Field, and Abraham's Sepulcher :
 He gave his Oath, and firm'd his last Request,
 His Children brought, and them the Patriarch bleis'd :
 His Hands transverse, his Right the Younger grac'd,
 And on the Elder's Head his Left was plac'd :
 Joseph displeas'd, to move 'em vainly try'd,
 Unerring Fate his palsied Hands did Guide.

My Ephraim ! thee thy Father's God shall bless,
 Inspir'd he cries, Manasseh only less :
 Thy Brother, Great, but thou shalt Greater be,
 And Nations like the Sand unnumber'd flow from
 Thee.

XLI.

GENESIS, Chap. XLVII. from Ver.
29. to the End of Chap. XLVIII.

75



Chap. xlviii. v. 8. Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said who are these?

9. And Joseph said unto his father, they are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place: and he said, bring them, I pray thee unto me, and I will bless them.

13. And Joseph took them both, and brought them near unto him.

14. And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head: guiding his hand wittingly; for Manasseh was the first-born.

XLII.

GENESIS, Chap. XLIX.

Jacob calls his Sons, and blesses them.

ONE Labour for the Patriarch yet remains
E'r Death must loose exhausted Nature's }
Chains ; }

He calls his Sons, and thus their Fates explains. }

REUBEN, my Might, my Strength! but Reuben
fell ; }

Unstable he as Water, can't excell :

His Youth with shameful Incest did abuse

His Father's Bed, and must his Birthright lose :

Which LEVI and fierce SIMEON hope in
vain, }

Their Swords in Blood, and guilty Hands they stain : }

'Tis JUDAH shall that envied Honour gain. }

Nor, Judah ! shall thy regal Race expire

Till the Great Shiloh come, the Nations long Desire.

From Sea to Sea shall ZEBULON extend,
At ancient Sidon shall his Border end.

Rich ISSACHAR ! be rather Safe than Brave !

Inglorious Ease he'll chuse, a Wealthy Slave.

The Sacred Rod of Justice, DAN shall wield,
By Art prevail, too Weak for open Field.

The wand'ring Sons of Ishmael GAD shall quell:

In Royal Dainties ASHER shall excel :

Soft Words for NAPHTHALI his Freedom gain,
Like a Swift Hind he shoots across the Plain.

JOSEPH ! thy Branches like a fruitful Vine
Shall shade the Walls, and round the Cedars twine !

Deep,

Deep, deep thy Root, as is th' Abyss below,
And o'r th' Eternal Hills shall thy fair Branches go:

Not famish'd Wolves dart keener at their Prey
Than BENJAMIN his trembling Foes shall slay,
Thus his enlightn'd Mind their Fates express'd,
Then loos'd from mortal Chains she wings for end-
less Rest.

XLIII.

GENESIS, Chap. L. Ver. 1. to 13.

Joseph buries Jacob in Canaan.

ON Israel's Face the pious Joseph fell,
And dear Remains of him he lov'd so well.
Then for his Stately Funeral Pomp prepares,
And him, embalm'd, to native Canaan bears.
Due Honours to his Herse the Nobles pay,
And o'r the Sandy Deserts him convey :
Fair Jordan's Streams disturb'd with Tears they
pass'd,
In Palestina's Fields arriv'd at last,
Near Atad's Floor in regal state he lay,
And thence to Ephron's Cave they him convey :
In Solemn Ranks the vested Mourners go,
Joseph the Chief: silent they march and slow :
How sad a Scene ! how vast a Pomp of Woe !
The wond'ring Natives crowd, and ask the cause
So large a Troop from Mizraim's Regions draws :
The Place's name preserves the Great Event,
Which down from thence unchang'd to distant Ages
went.

XLIV.

XLIV.

Joseph dies. The Israelites afflicted.
 Moses born, expos'd, found, and brought
 up by Pharaoh's Daughter, who adopts
 him for her Son.

EV'N Kings are Dust nor all their Pow'r can
 save
 Themselves or dearest Fav'rites from the Grave :
 Pharaoh is dead, and Joseph is the same,
 Ungrateful Egypt soon forgets his Name :
 A King arose a Foe to Israel's Seed,
 As soon as born their Sons are doom'd to bleed.
M O S E S of Levi's Race, divinely Fair,
 Did his sad Mother then to Amram bear :
 A while the lovely Infant did conceal,
 At length left envious eyes shou'd him reveal,
 Did in an Ark of Bulrushes inclose,
 And to the Mercy of the Waves expose :
 The Waves themselves than Tyrant-Man more mild,
 Safe on their Bosoms waft the lovely Child.
 As Pharaoh's Daughter did to Nile repair
 To pay mistaken Adorations there,
 The Infant she among the Rushes spies,
 Nor him beholds with unrelenting Eyes :
 To his glad Mother him commits unknown,
 And when he past his tender Childhood grown
 Adopts the envy'd Youth a Kinsman to the Throne. } }

XLIV.

Exodus, Chap I. Ver. 6. 8. 16. II. 1.

to 10.

79



v. 3. When his mother could no longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it upon the rivers brink.

4. And his sister stood afar off, to see what would be done to him.

5. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash her self at the river, and her maidens walked along by the rivers side: and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

6. And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and behold the babe wept, &c.

XLV.

XLV.

Moses visits his Brethren. Kills an Egyptian.

}
}
}

THIS RISING SUN attracts the Courtiers Eyes,
 Who Wisdom's shar'd at once, and Beauty's
 Prize,

Yet all their gawdy shows he cou'd despise.
 Afflicted Virtue meanly to disown
 He thinks too dear a Rate to gain a Throne :
 His Hebrew Brethren now no more unknown,
 Tho' for their Thraldom he cou'd only grieve,
 And mourn the Wrongs he cou'd not yet relieve.
 Pharaoh he left, he left the pompous Court,
 And to th' afflicted Hebrews did resort :
 He found 'em faint beneath their servile load,
 The Desart sprinkled with their Tears and Blood.
 Compassion in his gen'rrous Soul did rise,
 And just Resentment sparkled in his Eyes :
 Too many miserable Objects there
 His Temper try'd, but One he cou'd not bear :
 He saw a cruel Master seize his Slave,
 Resisting tho' unarm'd, and vainly Brave :
 Mov'd by the sacred Sp'rit his Sword he drew,
 And to his injur'd Brother's rescue flew :
 Deep in th' Invader's Breast the Weapon drives,
 And his warm Heart the deadly Point receives :
 Cursing he falls, and kicks the Sandy Ground,
 And his black Blood and Soul rush mingled thro' the
 Wound.

XLVI. EXODUS, CHAP. II. VER. 15. TO 21.

Enrag'd the Tyrant of proud Memphis hears,
And deep Revenge against the Heroe swears ;
A Price is set on his devoted Head,
To Midian's Fields the glorious Exile fled ;
And, as the Sun, in Western Waves descends,
The Pilgrim too his weary Journy ends.

O happy Age when Innocence did reign,
When Shepherds rul'd, and Kings did not disdain }
To guard their fleecy Households on the Plain ! }
Good Jethro held, of these, the foremost Place,
A Priest and Prince of holy Abram's Race :
Sev'n beautious Daughters bless'd his Nuptial Bed,
On flow'ry Banks their Father's Flocks they fed ;
By Day they fed, and cooler Evening come,
The lovely Shepherdesses drive 'em home.

A Well there was, deep in the native Rocks,
Whence all the Plains refresh'd their fainting Flocks :
When Jethro's there among the rest arrive
The churlish Shepherds thence his Daughters drive :
-- Nor Moses this -- " Is't thus you treat the Fair ? "
" Hence, or the just Rewards of Rudeness bear ! "
-- He said, and did for more than Words prepare : }
Diffident of their Number's weak defence
The frightened Clowns in troops run murmur'ring thence :
The Flocks suffic'd they homeward haste, and tell
With Moses and the Rusticks what befell :
--- And have ye left the gen'rous Stranger there,
Expos'd in Fields to cold nocturnal Air,
Their Father answers -- strait his Servants sent
And brought him to his hospitable Tent :
His Faith, his Courage, and his Prudence try'd }
He begs he'd not disdain his Flocks to guide, }
And made fair Zipporah his well-contented Bride. }

XLVII.

God appears to Moses in a Burning Bush.

TO Horeb Moses leads his bleating Charge,
And feeds 'em there in Pastures fresh and large:
Hanging they graze the Sacred Mountain's side,
A mossy Hillock bears their careful Guide:
Rare Myrtle Shrubs around at distance seen,
The Friendly Palm, and Cypress Ever-Green.
As he the Sylvan Scene with Pleasure views
By gentle motion dress'd in various Hews,
A hollow wind comes whisp'ring thro' the Leaves,
The solid Rock with dire Convulsions cleaves:
The largest Bush, and fairer than the rest
He saw in harmless Flames, and Lambent Light-
nings dress'd.

Tho' strange, tho' wondrous strange the Sight }
appear. (Fear,

The Saint who knew no Guilt cou'd know no }
And to the Burning Bush approaches near:
When from the Flames a Voice like Thunder broke,
And Moses in these awful Words bespoke:
" Thy Sandals quickly loose, bold mortal, and retire,
" This Place is Holy Ground, and God is in the Fire.
" The God of Abraham, I, and all his favour'd Race:
The Prophet heard and kneel'd, and trembling,
veil'd his Face: (unknown

When thus the Voice goes on -- " To me are not
" Afflicted Israel's Tears, I number every Groan:
" Under their cruel Lords no longer shall they grieve;
" From my own Heav'n I come to pity, and relieve.
" From Egypt's Slayish Bands shalt thou my Flock
convey (Way:

" To Canaan's happy Fields, my self, I'll show the

XLVII.

Exodus, Chap. III. Ver. 2. to 8.

83



v. 2. The Angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire, out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

6. God said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face: for he was afraid to look upon God.

7. And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry, by reason of their task-masters: for I know their sorrows, &c.

XLVIII. Moses and Aaron go in unto
Pharaoh. He refuses to let Israel go,
and increases their Oppression.

HIS Pow'rs receiv'd, he Heav'n's dread Envoy
goes

His Friends to rescue, and confound their Foes,
Great Aaron in th' August Commission joyn'd,
The future *Ephod* to adorn, design'd.

Undaunted they to Pharaoh's Court repair,
And Audience gain'd, their Embassy declare,
From God, the Lord of Hosts, who all things made,
From Israel's God they come, and thus they said:

Dismiss my People who my Name confess,
To Sacrifice in Etham's Wilderness.

When thus the haughty Tyrant from his Throne?
Can any God be in my Realms unknown?

Who is the Lord, that I respect shou'd pay
To his Commands? I'll not his Words obey.

Have Hebrews nothing else to do but Pray?

Other Employ I'll find -- Impostors go,
Or you the weight of Royal Hands shall know.

Guards - See that stricter Care their Masters take!
Of Bricks their wonted Number see they make!
Diminish nought, but let no Straw be giv'n:
They're Idle, and wou'd fain go play with Heav'n.

He said, his ready Ministers obey:

Thro' all the Land for Straw the Hebrews stray;
With this their Time consum'd, their Tale was less,
Remorseless Stripes their Officers oppress,
To Pharaoh they complain but no Redress.

They the Great Brethren met, and them accus'd,
Their Words had but their easie Faith abus'd.

Their Message false, their Promises in vain,
And only added Weight to their inglorious Chain.

XLVIII.

Exodus, Chap. V. from Ver. 1. to 21.

85



v. 1. Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, thus saith the Lord God of Israel, let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness, &c.

6. And Pharaoh commanded saying,

7. Ye shall no more give the people straw to make brick, as heretofore: let them go and gather straw for themselves.

8. And the tale of the bricks which they did make heretofore, you shall lay upon them; you shall not diminish ought thereof: for they are idle; therefore they cry, saying, Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

XLIX.

God encourages Moses. He goes agen to Pharaoh. His Rod becomes a Serpent, and swallows up the Rods of the Sorcerers.

IMpatient Man in troubles will not stay
 For his Relief, till Heav'n can find the way :
 Joy oft is near when we of Joy despair,
 A Storm succeeds a Calm, and Thunder clears the Air,
 Ev'n doubtful *Moses* self confess'd the Man,
 When thus to him his Fathers God began.

I A M, I W A S, and still shall be the same,
 Th' Imimutable *Jebovah* is my Name :
 A God to *Pharaoh* Thou, as I to thee ;
 Thou mine, and *Aaron* shall thy Prophet be.
 With Plagues on Plagues I'll harden'd *Egypt* scourge,
 Till they themselves your wish'd Departure urge.
 But first with Wonders I'll your mission sign,
 Their Sence compell'd to own a Pow'r divine :
 That Rod thou bear'st, when on the Marble thrown
 Before their Eyes a *crested Serpent* grown :
 Encourag'd they agen to *Pharaoh* goe,
 And on the ground their wondrous Rod they throw,
 Which in an instant did a *Snake* become,
 Whose bloody Eyes shot Flames around the Room :

The

The harden'd Tyrant calls, his Charmers came,
And by their hellish Magic did the same :
But th' active Hebrew Serpent theirs pursues,
Breaks their strong Backs, and does their Charms
unloose :
By Heav'n commission'd with Superior Pow'rs,
Seizes on all the rest, and them devours :
Then glides a harmless *Worm* around the Room,
And does in *Aaron's* Hand its wonted *Form* resume

EXODUS, Chap. V. Ver. 22. VI. 2 3.
VII. 1. to 12.

Chap. vi. 2. God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord:

3. And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them, &c.

Chap. vii. 10. Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did as the Lord had commanded : and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

11. Then Pharaoh called the wisemen, and the sorcerers : now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

12. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents : but Aarons rod swallowed up their rods, &c,

L.

The Waters turned into Blood. Frogs are sent.

Egypt their helpless Gods in vain may pray,
Their helpless Gods are plagu'd as much as they.

Ev'n Nile, their Jove, if whose rich Streams o'flow
No Thanks th' Ungrateful think to Heav'n they ow,
Stagnates, and stinks, and all its sev'n-mouth'd Flood,
Diereful Portent! rolls with a Sea of Blood :
Satiate with what they did so long desire
The cruel Natives now for Thirst expire :
Nor this alone ; what e'r in Mystic Stile :
They dream of Creatures from the Slime of Nile,
See now its animated Waters roll,
And every Drop swell with imperfect Soul !
Myriades of Frogs from thence at Heaven's com-
mand

March from the River, and invade the Land :
For Nature's slow Production will not stay,
Born in a Moment, perfect in a Day.

To Pharaoh's Court they press, and slight his Guard ;
Like factious Crowds they swarm, and will be heard ;
Importunate, as hungry Courtiers, grown,
His Levee wait, and croak around the Throne ;
On his Rich Beds their slimy Members place,
" A Luxury unknown before to all their watry
Race.

L.

Exodus, Chap. VII. Ver. 20. 21.
Chap. VIII. Ver. 3. to 6.

30



Chap. viii. V. 1. *Thas saith the Lord, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs.*

3. *And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly; which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bed chamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneading-troughs.*

4. *And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants,*

LI.

LI.

Lice and Flies are sent.

AS Storms of Hail on Stones descending, sound,
But can't their solid Texture pierce, or wound,
So, doubled Plagues the Tyrant's Heart affright,
Yet still obdurate he renews the Fight.

Tho' now the Frogs remov'd by *Moses* Pray'r,
Just Heav'n can soon another scourge prepare:
The meanest Worm commission'd, proves the Rod
And weighty Plague of an avenging God:
From *Lice*, th' uncleanly Torment of the Poor,
Not *Pharaoh*'s Robes can *Pharaohs* self secure:
Obscene and large, of an uncommon kind,
The like his Sorc'lers cou'd not make or find:
They own their Art out done: they own this Sign
Th' inimitable Work of Hands divine.

Still the relentless King his Rage renews,
Tho' still just Heav'n with vengeful Plagues pursues:
On *Egypt* came a dreadful swarm of Flies,
Of countless number, and of monstrous size,
Of painful Bite, and of molestful Sound;
Both Night and Day they fly their endless round
Until their Soul is left in each vexatious Wound.
In dismal Clouds they hover o'r the Coast,
“ And *Accaron*, their Airy Prince led forth their va-
rious Host,

LII.

The Murrain and Blain.

A Dreadful Murrain next infects the Air,
And when Beasts die, their Masters must
prepare.

The gen'rous Steed, ready equipp'd for Race,
Pawing the Ground, and eager of the Chace,
Swallowing the distant Goal with alter'd Eyes
Unwilling to forego th' expected Prize }
Beneath th' incumbred Rider falls, and dies.
The lab'ring Oxen, as they sweating come,
And bring the Plough with weary Footsteps home
With doubled Knees drop on the printed Clay,
And in deep murmurs groan their Souls away.
The painful Camels lose their Masters hire,
The milky Mothers o'r the Pails expire.
The Ass, which late his Lady proudly bore
Sinks in his Stall, and loves the Crib no more :
Vex'd Air he with his quiv'ring Hoofs does wound
As his strong crested Shoulders strike the Ground.
The Sheep, their wealthy Masters envy'd store
Which *Wool* well worthy *Tyrian Purple* bore,
Struck with the sudden Plague forget to graze,
Their sunk dim Eye, their inward Pain betrays :
Each staggers from the next ; in vain he tries
His wonted wholsome Herbs, and bleating dies.
Their Masters scarce escape, the pois'nous Air
Infects their Blood, but yet their Lives did spare :
Tortur'd with noisom Blains no ease they find,
Forerunners of the Plague that yet remain'd behind.

LIII.

LIII.

The Plague of Hail.

NEW poignant Arrows from th' Almighty's Bow,
 Transfix th' unjust, the guilty Land o'rthrow,
 Still unreform'd: His fearless Heralds came,
 And War against their impious King proclaim.

" Thus saith the Lord, my People must depart,
 " Or all my Plagues shall centre in thy Heart.
 " For this I suffer'd thee to fill the Throne,
 " To make my Pow'r and Justice widely known;
 " To vindicate my Honour and my Laws;
 " For this permitting what I did not cause.
 " If thou refuse, my Stores I'll open wide,
 " And quickly humble all thy Nation's Pride:
 " My Magazines of Cold and Heat disclose,
 " Whence mingled Fire and Hail shall blast my Foes.

No Threatnings make the wayward King relent,
 He Steels his Heart, unknowing to repent:
 When, see the must'ring angry Storms on high!
 Behold the ruddy Vengeance streak the Skie!
 The disembowel'd Clouds discharge their store,
 File off in haste, and still make room for more;
 Whence Fire and Hail in Ruin reconcil'd,
 Swept the sad Earth, the future Harvest spoil'd:
 Amazing Thunders thro' the Welkin drive,
 As the vast Crystal Orb itself wou'd rive.
 The Trees no more their heavy Honours wear,
 Like broken Arms their shiver'd Boughs appear:

Tall

Tall Pyramids their Airy Summits shake,
Deep fix'd in Earth their broad Foundations quake:
No mortal Force the Tempest cou'd sustain,
But Beasts, and Trees, and Men, lie scatter'd o'r
the Plain.

EXODUS, Chap. VIII. IX.

Chap. viii. V. 16. The Lord said unto Moses, say unto Aaron, stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

17. And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice, in man and beast: all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

Chap. ix. V. 3. Behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thy cattel which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very great murrain, &c.

23. Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

24. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt, since it became a nation.

25. And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast: and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.

LIV.

The LOCUSTS.

EV'N *Atheists* seem courageous while 'tis fair,
But can't the threatening Storms, and Thunder bear :

Pharaoh, of late so haughty and so proud
Now hides his Face, for *Moses* calls aloud :
O bring that Holy Man, if not too late;
His Pray'rs may save us from impending Fate !
He came, he heard, for trembling *Pharaoh* pray'd,
Who promis'd all, -- but *Pharaoh's* now afraid :
This Death remov'd, he heeds his Vows no more,
His melted Iron, harder than before :

When over trembling Egypt's guilty Land
Agen the Prophet stretch'd his fatal Wand :
The *Locusts* come, their Quarters were assign'd,
Their Convoy was the burning *Eastern Wind* :
Their sounding Wings the stooping Plague fore-show,

A dusky Twilight veils the World below.
The tender Grass which new from Earth arose,
The spiring Wheat, which promis'd Harvest shows ;
If any Herbs, or straggling Leaves remain,
If ought that's Green had scap'd the Hail in vain,
These famish'd *Libyan* Troops the Country scour,
And bare as Earth the rising Blade devour.

The Trees they bark ; like Skeletons they stand,
Or Masts of Shipwreck'd Fleets in sight of Land.

What Foes to Man are Unbelief, and Vice,
Which to a Desart thus can turn a Paradise !

LIV.

EXODUS, Chap. IX. Ver. 27. to End.

Chap. X. Ver. 13. to 15.

95



Chap. x. V. 12. Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east-wind upon the land all that day, and all that night: and when it was morning, the east-wind brought the locusts.

14. And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.

15. For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkned, and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees, which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

LV.

LV.

*The Ninth Plague. Thick Darkness in
Egypt. Light in Goshen.*

NO warning did the Ninth dread Plague fore-show,
 Like Thunder, where the Bolt outflies the Blow :
 (Who play with Heav'n, their Day of Mercy
 pass'd ;
 A sudden Vengeance them shall seize at last.)
 On all the Land prodigious Darkness fell,
 It fill'd the Heav'ns, tho' it arose from Hell ;
 Their Lamps extinct, their Fires no cheerful Ray
 Emitt, but trembling in their Ashes lay :
 If any Gleams of ghastly Light appear
 Across the Shades, they only raise their Fear,
 While boding Shrieks, and dismal Yells they hear : }
 While many a Fiend, with fierce and bloodshot Eye
 Dire Faces and deform'd, shoot glaring by :
 Only their Parents Ghosts wou'd longer stay,
 With hollow Murmurs beckning them away : }
 Where e'r at first they stood, where e'r they lay,

Like Statues fix'd the Wretches still remain,
Bound with a more than Adamantine Chain :
While happy *Goshen* cheerful Light enjoy'd,
While in their Great Redeemer's Praise employ'd,
They saw the Pitchy Darkness roll from far
In hellish Fogs, without one friendly Star.
From *Abraham's* Bosom thus bless'd Souls survey,
The Dungeons of the Damn'd, and Realms remov'd from Day,

EXODUS, Chap. X. Ver. 21. to 23.

21. The Lord said unto Moses, stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.

22. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven: and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.

23. They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

LVI.

The Passover instituted.

JEHOVA spake -- One Plague I yet will bring
On stubborn *Egypt*, and their faithless King ;
Then shall they soon dismiss my People thence,
And thrust 'em from them in their own Defence.
Their Sons, their dear First-born, their Strength
and Might

The Pestilence shall slay : One fatal Night
Shall sweep them all, but *Israel* shall be free,
And just Revenge on their Oppressors see.
A Spotless Lamb let every House prepare,
And every Soul the sacred Banquet share.
With Sandals on your Feet, proclaiming hast,
And Staff in Hand I order this Repast,
Which shall to immemorial Ages last.

The Blood which from the dying Victim flows,
When seen, where my destroying Angel goes
On his dread Message, sprinkled o'r the Gate,
Shall save you from the sudden stroke of Fate :
That sacred Sign shall every House defend,
Th' Almighty's Sword shall spare th' Almighty's
Friend ;

But bath'd in Blood, and red with slaughter come
From *Egypt*'s Sons in Triumph reaking home.

Glad *Israel* hear, adoring they obey'd,
And for the last, the great Decisive Moment staid.

LVI.

EXODUS, Chap. XII. Ver. 3. to 28.

99



v. 3. In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house.

5. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year : ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats.

9. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire : his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

11. And thus shall ye eat it ; with your loyns girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand : and ye shall eat it in haste ; it is the Lords passover.

LVII.

The Death of the Firstborn.

AND now the Night her sable Wings displaid,
And half the World lay drown'd in dusky shade:

The Fires on *Pharaoh's* Tower remissly burn,
And snatch short Life from their exhausted Urn:
Lean Avarice slumbers o'r its useless store,
Ev'n Malice Sleeps, in some to wake no more.
Fix'd in their Orbs the sickning Planets stand,
And *Ammon* trembles for his darling Land.

'Tis pass'd -- th' Almighty Word from Heav'n
leap'd down,
And on his radiant Face he wore a Frown
To Angels terrible; his Sword unsheathes,
Walks thro' the Land, and deals Ten Thousand Deaths;
But stops at each protected *Hebrews* Door,
And drops the Point, or waves it gently o'r:
Then, as the *Nile*, where Hills or Damms oppose,
When these surpass'd, with greater Fury flows,
He shoots away and draws a purple Flood,
Agen the Land is drunk with Seas of Blood.
What steely Heart can bear, what Tongue recite
The mortal Terrors of that dreadful Night?
Expiring Groans the gentlest Sounds they hear,
And something worse than Death the Living fear:
An Universal Shriek invades the Skies;
As when th' Unjust compell'd to Judgement rise:

So Pharaoh rose amidst his ghastly Friends,
And now for Moses not dissembling sends;
He beggs, he sues, he hastens him away,
No Children now, or Goods behind must stay:
Nor empty thence, nor unadorn'd they went,
Loaden with Jewels by th' Egyptians lent:
The Hosts of God, led by his own strong Hand
In peaceful Triumph march from Egypt's hated
Land.

EXODUS, Chap. XII. 29. to 33.

29. At midnight the Lord smote all the first-born in the Land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sat on his throne, unto the first-born of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the first-born of cattel.

30. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt: for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

31. And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, rise up, and get you up from amongst my people, both you and the children of Israel: and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said, &c.

LVIII.

Pharaoh pursues the Israelites.

CAN Pharaoh late repriev'd so soon rebel?
 He can, he does he grows too ripe for Hell.
 (When respite once a perjur'd Tyrant gains,
 Nothing can hold him but infernal Chains.)
Leviathan the Great enrag'd, pursues
 The Prey he seem'd e'rwhile consent to lose :
 Chariots, and Horse which knew not to retire
 (But how can Stubble face consuming Fire ?)
 He leads, defenceless *Israel* to oppress,
 Entangl'd in th' impervious Wilderness.
 The Sea in Front, their Flanks huge Mountains
 lin'd,
 And Pharaoh's num'rous Army press'd behind,
 The servile Crowd, base as the Chains they wore
 Envy the Bondage which they mourn'd before :
 In vain the fiery Column now may shine,
 Dumb Idols fear'd above the Pow'r divine.
Moses to God for speedy Succour flies,
 And God to *Moses* from the Cloud replies :
 Let not the Hours in weak Complaints run waste,
 But give the word to march, and forward haste!
 March for the sounding Shore without delay,
 And he that bids you go will make, or find the
 Way.

LVIII.

EXODUS, Chap. XIV. Ver. 5. to 15.

103



v. 6. Pharaoh made ready his chariot, and took his people with him.

7. And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.

8. And he pursued after the children of Israel : and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.

9. But the Egyptians pursued after them, (all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army) and overtook them encamping by the sea.

LIX.

Pharaoh and his Army drowned in the Red Sea.

Behold, stretch'd out before the Hebrew Host !
 The Rod which had not yet its Virtue lost
 The Sea divides, and every shouldring Wave
 His Neighbour pressing, easie paſſage gave :
 Old Ocean's ſecret Chambers open lay,
 Its Pearls and Gemms expos'd an easie prey ;
 Pale Coral bluſh'd to ſee th' invading Day.
 The reſcu'd Hebrews tremble now no more,
 But wall'd with Floods attempt the diſtant Shore.
 Th' Egyptians with Revenge and Fury blind
 Pursue the Track, and press 'em close behind :
 The Cloud and Fiery Pillar interpoſe,
 And Israel shield from their devoted Foes :
 What mortal Force Heav'n's angry Looks can bear,
 Which in a Moment frowns it to Despair ?
 Terror, Confusion, Horror, and Dismay
 Their Army feize ; their Horses diſobey
 The Master's Voice ; unwheel'd their Chariots flag,
 And thro' the Sand, a pond'rous Load, they drag :
 Too late the Wretches now their Error ſee ;
 From Israels God too late attempt to flee :

LIX.

EXODUS, Chap. XIV. from Ver. 21.
to 29.

105



v. 27. Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared, and the Egyptians fled against it: and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

28. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them: there remained not so much as one of them.

29. But the children of Israel walked upon dry-land in the midst of the sea: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Moses

Moses agen his fatal Rod extends,
 The Ocean sees, and from its Walls descends :
 On every side its wat'ry Troops appear,
 And charge at once their Front, their Flank, and
 Rear,
 The gen'rous Coursers rear, and plunge in vain }
 To break the Studded Harness, and the Rein, }
 And like Sea Monsters float upon the Main.
 Nobles and Peasants, Princes and their Slaves }
 Fall undistinguish'd in the roaring Waves :
Pharaoh the last, tho' high above the rest,
 Like *Lucifer* his Looks, his Pride confess'd :
 Cursing he from his lofty Chariot fell,
 His Carcass sunk to Earth, his faithless Soul to
 Hell.

LX.

EXODUS, Chap. XV.

MOSES's Song.

ON *Etham's* adverse Shore the *Hebrews* stand,
 And see their Foes extended on the Sand :
 Each sees the cruel Lord from whom he fled,
 Trembling they view, and scarce believe 'em dead.
 While *Moses* thus transmits to After-Days
 The Great Event, and their Redeemer's Praise.

The

The Lord's triumphant Name let all rehearse,
Praise the dread Maker of the Universe!

The Horse whom rich Caparisons adorn,
Proud Riders by the gen'rous Coursers born,
At once have slept their Everlasting Sleep,
At once lie buried in th' *Arabian Deep*.

Dread God of Battles! we'll thy works proclaim
Thy wondrous Works -- *Zehova* is thy Name.
My Saviour thou, my Strength, my Song, my
Praise,

My Father's God -- Thy glorious Name I'll raise;
For Thee a Stately Temple I'll prepare,
Deep as the Centre, tow'ring as the Air.

Thus said th' insulting Foe -- I will pursue,
My Sword in Blood, my thirsty Sword imbrue:
The Winds of God blew terrible and loud,
Th' Abyss the Signal takes, and overwhelms the
Proud.

Like Stones, like Lead they sink, they all expire,
Weak Stubble in thy Wraths consuming Fire.

The Waters saw, thy Voice the Waters hear,
Forget their Nature, and congeal with Fear:
The Sea like Earth, and Earth like Seas appear:
Convulsions cleave the Ground in horrid Caves,
And show a new Abyss beneath the Waves.

Great God of *Israel*! what vain Idol dare
With thee, th' Eternal Lord of Hosts, compare?
Thy

Thy Glory shall thy ransom'd Saints express,
 Obedient Nature does thy Pow'r confess,
 And Thee with Faces veil'd the dazled Angels
 bless.

LXI.

Exodus, Chap. XV. from Ver. 22.
 to the End.

The Israelites journey to Marah. They murmur. The Water healed. They arrive at Elim.

THE Seas, and Sanguine Shore they now
 forsake,
 And thro' th' untroden Wild their Journey take:
 Three Days they measure that unhappy Land,
 O'r Rocks of Salt, and burning Hills of Sand:
 At Marah, Water found, but found in vain,
 It mocks their Thirst, and but augments their
 Pain.

Bitter and Salt, -- The murmur'ring Host complain;
 Forget their Saviour who, from Egypt brought,
 And all the Signs in Zoan's Fields he wrought:

{But}

(But every Age produces Murm'lers too,
Israel we blame, yet *Israel's* Crimes pursue.)
To Heav'n their Leader flies, which sends Relief,
Heav'n which can find a Cure for ev'ry Grief,
A Tree of wondrous Use, and Pow'r reveals,
Whose Virtue soon the brackish Waters heals.

Journing from thence, at *Elim* they arrive,
Scarce *Canaan's* self cou'd more of Pleasure give :
For every Tribe a Crystal Spring they found,
Whose limpid Waters fall with murmur'ring Sound, }
And lull their Cares ; the Host encamps around, }
Beneath a Palm-Tree Grove's refreshing Shade,
No Sun can reach 'em there, no Storms invade.

O Happy who for heavenly *Canaan* press
Tho' wand'ring thro' a weary Wilderness,
When some reviving Drops kind Angels bring
From Loves and Pleasures unexhausted Spring ;
Whose Streams from God's high Throne incessant
flow,
On whose green Banks in comely Order grow
Fair Trees, whose gen'rous Fruit that charms the
Eyes,
Who wou'd not die to taste ? who tastes it never
dies.

LXII.

Manna given.

FOR Water late, and now for Bread they cry,
Their Stores exhausted ask a new supply : }
Happy th' *Egyptians*, who in plenty dy ! }
The Mercy of a Plague, who wou'd not chuse
Rather than Life by lingring Famine lose !
How gladly wou'd they those bless'd Times regain,
And *Pharaoh's* happy, peaceful, glorious Reign !

While thus th' Assembly murmur and repine,
Behold the God of *Israel's* Glory shine
Amid the Cloud, which rais'd its lofty Head }
Above the Camp, and thus th' Almighty said : }
- Ungrate ! who gave you *life* can give you *bread* : }
To morrows Sun your Plenty shall renew,
And shew a faithless Race what Heav'n can do.

Nor sooner did Heav'ns Lamp th' Horizon pass,
And draw the fragrant moisture from the Grafs,
When on the ground a hoary Substance lay
Like tender Frosts, that melt at sight of Day ;
Unseen before, unknown from whence it came,
But *Manna* now the wondrous Food they name,
Transparent Crystal Globes less bright, and round,
Fairer than Pearls in *Indian* Oceans found :
Of noblest Taste, and fitted to invite,
But never cloy the treated Appetite.
Less sweet the Hony which from *Hybla* flows,
Or Oyl, that *Asher's* fruitful portion grows :
Celestial Fare ! if ought above they need,
On this, or not unlike it, Angels feed :
Their radiant Vehicles with this renew,
And feast on pearly Drops of fragrant Morning
Dew.

LXII.

EXODUS, Chap. XVI. Ver. 3. 4. 10.
12. 14. 15.



v. 13. In the morning the dew lay round about the host.

v. 14. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

15. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, it is Manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, this is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.

16. Gather of it every man according to his eating: an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons, take ye every man for them which are in his tents.

LXIII.

LXIII.

Moses praying Amalek discomfited.

OLD Esau's quarrel Amalek pursues,
 And first with Jacob's Sons his War renewes :
 But Joshua, Jacob's Sons their Leader choose,
 While Moses with strong Pray'rs attacks their Foes,
 Planted upon a neighb'ring Mountains height,
 No unconcern'd Spectator of the Fight :
 From Heav'n auxiliary Trrops he draws,
 And Guardian Hosts espouse the juster cause :
 Invisible they charge, th' Invaders yield ;
 Retiring in disorder from the Field.

Heavy with Age the Prophet strives in vain,
 And can no more his palsied Hands sustain :
 The strong Cherubic Guards retire from fight,
 The Foe returns with doubled rage and might :
 When Hur and Aaron this perceiv'd from far,
 And mark'd the various Fortune of the War,
 Ebbing and flowing saw the doubtful Tide,
 Which Moses rais'd or drooping Hands did guide,
 Cautious they plac'd themselves on either side :
 Supported thus till Night the Prophet pray'd,
 The dubious Chance no longer now delay'd,
 But Conquest on the Hebrew Banner staid ;
 When thus th' Allhigh -- Let future Ages know
 Who first was ransom'd Israel's conquer'd Foe :
 Write, in the Sacred Volumes, write it fair,
 Let future Nations find, and read it there,
 That God, with Amalek proclaims eternal War.

XLIII.

EXODUS, Chap. XVII. from Ver. 8.
to the End.

113



v. 10. Joshua fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur, went up to the top of the hill.

11. And when Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed: and when he let it down Amalek prevailed.

12. But Moses's hands were heavy, and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon: and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

13. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

LXIV.

The Law is given from Mount Sinai in Thunder and Lightning.

TO Sinai next, the Mount of God, they came,
Which soon was veil'd in awful Clouds, and
Flame :

Jehova calls, and bids the Camp prepare,
From Heav'n he will his sacred Laws declare ;
Around the spacious Mount must Bounds be made,
Nor Man nor Beast on pain of Death invade.

Archangels now th' amazing Trumpets sound,
Which from th' Arabian Deep, and Western Shores
rebound :

Heark how th' unsufferable Thunders tear
Both Earth and Heav'n ! while fork'y Lightnings }
glare,

And with blue Flames transfix the ambient Air :
Trembled the Camp, the solid Mountain shakes,
And Earth beneath it, to the Centre quakes :
Red Volcans from its mould'ring Top expire,
Extinguish Day, and damp the Lightnings Fire.
The Lord descends, the Thund'rers Voice is known,
The Holy Myriads guarding round his Throne :
The Ten dread Words from *Sinai* he recites,
Which his own Hand in Marble Tables writes :
Great Natures Transcript, and Eternal Law,
Whence future Sages shall their Models draw,
Wise *Greece* and haughty *Rome* are here surpass'd,
Each Word, each Title here shall Earth and Heav'n
out-last.

LXIV.

Exodus, Chap. XIX. and Chap. XX.

115



Chap. xix. V. 18. Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace; and the whole mount quaked greatly.

20. And the Lord came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount, and Moses went up.

21. And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

LXV.

The Altar and Tabernacle.

TO Moses God the sacred Model shows,
Whence he his moving Temple shou'd
compose:

Figure of heavenly Things in Shades conceal'd,
And Truths to be by lab'ring Time reveal'd.
Of Shittim's precious Wood an Altar's rear'd,
And all its sacred Utensils prepar'd :
Next see the Court whose spacious Curtains joyn,
Embroider'd richly o'r, a Work divine :
On Twenty neat Pilasters strongly born,
Whose Heads fair Silver Cornishes adorn.
The Tabernacle next -- with awful Fear
Approach the Place, for God himself is here:
Let all adoring enter, nor presume
With Feet unhallow'd to invade the Room :
Where a rich Branch with purest Oil supply'd,
Scatters perpetual Day on every side,

But what the Veil conceals we can't survey,
Until the Son of God in Mortal Clay {
Into the Holy' of Holies shews the way :
Yet Faith may pierce beyond dull Sense's Eye,
And those tremendous Mysteries descry.
The sacred Ark with purest Gold o'rlaid,
Of the Redeemers Flesh a Mystic Shade :
High over all the Shechina divine,
From whence unsufferable Glories shine.

Here Faith must stop, for Heav'n can give no more!
Here Modest Seraphs veil their Faces, and adore.

LXV.

EXODUS, Chap. XXV. Ver. 8, 9, 10.
 17, 18. 22. Chap. XXVII. to the End.

117



Chap. xxv. V. 8. Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell amongst them.

9. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

10. And they shall make an ark of Shittim-wood:

11. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, &c.

Chap. xxvii. V. 1. And thou shalt make an altar of Shittim-wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be four-square, and the height thereof shall be three cubits.

2. And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass, &c.

I 3 LXVI.

LXVI.

The Golden Calf.

While Moses in the Mount with God remain'd,
Shameful Idolatry the People stain'd :
Their Leader absent, who shou'd them protect ?
Rejecting him they God himself reject :
A *Golden Calf* the Crowd in *Horeb* frame,
And for their Idol steal *Zehova's Name*,
Then thus the gaudy Nothing's Praise proclaim.

“ Hail, sacred Heifer ! thus we bow to thee,
“ Who *Israel* didst from *Egypt's* Bondage free :
“ O guide us thro' this barren World of Sand,
“ And bring us safe to *Canaan's* blissful Land !
From him not hid, who ev'n our Thoughts can
see,

Their Black Ingratitude, and Blasphemy :
In wrathful Clouds his Face he soon conceals,
And thus to *Moses* he their Crime reveals :

“ Hence to the Camp descend, nor longer here
remain !
“ Thy People, (mine no more, they my Commands
disdain,)
“ Whom thou from *Egypt* brought'st, so soon cor-
rupted grown,
“ New Golden Gods adore, their Fathers God
disown :
“ Confirm'd and steel'd in Sin, of harden'd Heart
and Face,
“ My Vengeance I'll unrein on all their murm'ring
Race,

LXVI.

EXODUS, Chap. XXXII.

119



v. 4. He made it a molten calf: and they said, these be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

5. And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made proclamation and said, to morrow is a feast to the Lord.

6. And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt-offerings, and brought peace-offerings: and the people sat down to eat, and to drink, and rose up to play.

19. As soon as Moses came nigh unto the camp, and saw the calf, and the dancing; Moses anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount, &c.

Low on the Ground the trembling Prophet falls,
 And on th' offended Pow'r for Mercy calls :
 His Truth and Glory pleads, nor pleads in vain,
 A kind Reprieve his fervent Pray'rs obtain.
 Then from the Mount descends as Heav'n commands
 With both the Sacred Tables in his Hands :
 Approach'd the Camp he did too soon descry
 Their New-born Golden Idol plac'd on high :
 Riot and Shouts his festal Pomp proclaim,
 Lewd Dances spread his Glory and their Shame.
 The Saint did all with just Resentments view,
 And from his Hands the heav'nly Treasure threw ;
 Against the craggy Rock the Tables brake ;
 Then did their Calf, their helpless Idol take,
 Moulten and ground to Dust, the Dust he strows
 Upon the Brook which from the Mountain flows :
 Then brings his fond Adorers to the Brink,
 And makes 'em of the odious Potion drink :
 Nor this enough to expiate their stain,
 Till Thousands of th' Unjust by Zealous Levi slain.

LXVII.

Aaron's Vestments. His Offerings.

AND now behold the holy Vestments grace
 A Great Aaron, and his consecrated Race :
 Of purest Linnen twin'd his Mitre made,
 A glorious Ephod o'r his Shoulders laid :
 Light and Perfection on his Breast he wears,
 And near his Heart the Names of Israel bears,

On richest Gems within the Folds enchas'd,
 Which as he mov'd a dazzling Splendor cast.
 In finest Linnen clad his Sons appear,
Miters their Heads, their Shoulders *Ephods* wear.
 Inestimable Unguents largely shed
 Surround the Holy Pontiff's rev'rend Head,
 Thence to his Robes descend, and scatt'ring there
 With fragrant Odours fill the Ambient Air :
 Thus vested, he his Offerings makes t' atone
 At once the Peoples Errors, and his own :
 An Holocaust upon the Altar lays,
 And next the peaceful Minchas cheartful blaze :
 Pure Incense last within the Veil he burns,
 Then *Moses* joyns, and to the Crowd returns,
 Whom both with lifted Hands they bless - when see,
 To firm their Pray'r's a welcome Prodigie !
 Th' illumin'd Cloud is fill'd with golden Streams,
 Which drown'the fainter Suns retiring Beams ;
 From whence large Sheets of pure Æthereal Flame
 Shot thro' the Clouds and instantaneous came ;
 Consume the Fat which on the Altar lies,
 Consume at once the grateful Sacrifice.

Low on the Ground th' astonish'd People fell,
 And with loud Shouts they praise the God of *Israel*.

LEVITICUS, Chap. VIII. from Ver. 5. to 10. Chap. IX.

v. 5. *This is the thing which the Lord commanded to be done.*

6. *And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water, &c.*

LXVIII.

Nadab and Abihu.

BOld Nadab and Abihu here prepare,
The daily Incense in their Course to bear.
They saw no friendly Blaze to Heav'n aspire,
They saw the Smoak in gloomy Curls retire,
Their Incense kindled with unhallow'd Fire.
But from th' affronted Oracle there came
In rolling Clouds a more than Lambent Flame,
Which seiz'd th' audacious as too late they fled,
Reveng'd their Sacrilege, and left 'em dead,
Their Robes untouched -- Thus Lightnings won-
drous Fire,

Which melts the Blade the Scabbard leaves entire.

When Moses thus to their sad Kindred spoke,
Restrain your Tears, nor mourn this dreadful Stroke.
From Heav'n it comes, 'tis just, tho' 'tis severe,
For thus Jehovah did his Will declare.

" Let those who my dread Courts approach,
beware,

" Holy as I am Holy, Clean, and Pure,

" Nor can the smallest Stain of Sin endure.

Presume not then your Brethren to lament,
Cover'd your Heads, nor shall your Cloaths be rent,
Lest while th' anointing Sacred Oyl you bear,
And that with Grief pollute, their Fates you share.

Nor shall they fall unmourn'd, for Heav'n ordains
Sepulchral Honours to their great Remains:
All Israel shall their Obsequies attend,
Bemoan their rash Attempt, and their untimely End.

LXVIII.

LEVITICUS, Chap. X. Ver. 1. to 7.

123



v. 1. Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not.

2. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

3. Then Moses said unto Aaron: this is that the Lord spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified.

LXIX.

LXIX.

Shelomith's Son blasphemes, and is stoned.

THE Son of *Shelomith*, of spurious Race,
 Sprung from a proud *Egyptian's* loath'd Em-
 His Father's Nature but too well express'd, (brace,
 And all the *Heathen* in his Life confess'd ;
 Stubborn and lewd, inclin'd to curs'd Debates,
Israel alike, and *Israel's* God he hates :
 Always Contentious, ever in the Wrong,
 Boasting his nervous Strength, but vainly strong, }
 As impotent of Heart as stout of Tongue.
 He challenges the Camp his Force to try,
 But shameful Foyl his boasted Victory ;
 O'r thrown and baffled by a single Hand,
 Cursing the Impious falls, and bites the Sand :
 Enrag'd, on partial Heav'n he throws the blame,
 Blasphemes the Great *Jehova's* sacred Name ;
 But on himself his Curses backward fly
 And wound his Head, but cannot reach the Skie.
 The pious Crowd around with Horror hears,
 They seize the harden'd Wretch and stop their Ears :
 To the Tribunal dragg'd, his Cause is try'd,
 The Fact Notorious not to be deny'd :
 No Punishment that reach'd his daring Crimes
 Their Laws had fix'd, unknown to former Times :
 The Oracle consulted, strait replies,
 No Mercy shew to him who Heav'n defies ! }
 Beneath a stony Show'r th' abhor'd Blasphe- }
 mer dies.

Such be their Fate who Glory in their Shame,
 And still affront th' Unalterable Name :
 But happy those, who on Heav'n's side engage,
 Bold Blasphemy to check, and stem an impious Age.

LXIX.

LEVITICUS, Chap. XXIV. Ver. 10.
to 23.

125



v. 10, 11. *The son of an Israelitish woman blasphemed the name of the Lord, and cursed: and they brought him unto Moses, and his mothers name was Sheli-*
mith, &c.

13. *And the Lord spake unto Moses saying,*

14. *Bring forth him that hath cursed, without the camp, and let all that heard him, lay hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him.*

23. *And the children of Israel did as the Lord commanded Moses.*

LXX.

The Number and Encampment of the Israelites.

Twice had the Sun to either Tropic driv'n
His Golden Car, and view'd both Ends of
Heav'n,

Since Jacob's Sons from Egypt's Thraldom came,
Conducted by the wondrous Cloud and Flame:
When God in Sinai's Wild to Moses spake,
And bids of all the Tribes the Number take :
With him the Princes of th' Assembly join,
The famous Heads of every Patriarch's Line :
To Sixty Myriads did their Males amount,
Tho' Levi not included in th' Account :
The Charge of God his constant happy Care,
His sacred Tribe the sacred Vessels bear ;
For this encamp'd the Tabernacle round,
The rest far off from that forbidden Ground :
Each House the Standard of their Tribe regard,
Each Tribe observes its own peculiar Ward.

Where first the Sun its smiling Beams displays
Great Judah's Princely Lion meets his Rays :

Wise Issachar his deep Battallion join'd,
And Zebulon encamp'd not far behind.

Against fierce Noon were Ruben's Arms displaid,
But skreen'd beneath the Clouds refreshing Shade,
Simeon and Gad their Brother's Quarter share,
A pow'rful Army each, and each a War :
Ephraim encamps against the midland Main,
Manasseh him, and Benjamin sustain :

The Rear to Dan's fierce Thousands Moses gave,
Beneath the frozen Pole his Banners wave ;
Whose numerous Camp bless'd Asher's Sons
augment,
And Nephthali behind 'em pitch'd his Tent.
Thus marshal'd they the Sandy Desart tread,
Where e'r the Ark and wondrous Column led :
The Signal giv'n for marching, Moses pray'd,
And not in vain, implor'd celestial Aid :
" --- Arise, O Lord ! and those that hate thee find,
" Scatter'd like Dust or Chaff before the Wind !
But when agen their weary Armies halt,
Thus did he their Redeemer's Praise exalt ;
" Where thou our Guard, no Shape of Ill we fear ;
" Return, O Lord ! and bless thy chosen Myriads
here.

NUMBERS, Chap. I. II. Chap. X.
Ver. 35. 36.

Ch. I. v. 1. The Lord spake unto Moses, saying,
2. Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the
children of Israel, after their families, by the house of
their fathers, with the number of their names, every
male by their poll :
3. From twenty years old and upward, all that are
able to go forth to war in Israel ; thou and Aaron shall
number them by their armies, &c.

LXXI.

TABERAH.

AGEN ungrateful *Israel* blindly err,
 And rank *Egyptian* Dainties they prefer
 To that rich Food whereon th' Immortals fed,
 The sordid Bread of Slaves to Angels Bread :
 Ah who, they cry, shall give us Flesh to eat!
 The same dry nauseous Food we still repeat?
 Is Heav'n so Poor it can no better treat?
 Nothing but *Manna*, *Manna* can afford?
 Too well we now recall that crowded Board
 We did in *Egypt* without our Masters share.
 Nor wanted tasteful Leeks and Onionsthere:
 They thought 'em Gods, and them we scarce can
 blame,

Who if we saw 'em now, shou'd do the same.

Zehova heard, his wrathful Vengeance rose,
 And woe to his unthankful murmur'ring Foes!
 Behold the Fire of God from Heav'n appear;
 And seize their utmost Tents like Stragglers in the
 Rear,

Raging unquenchable; the Rebels fly,
 Or in the rapid Flames blaspheming dy.
 With short extorted Penitence the rest
 To *Moses* cry, and he to Heav'n address'd,
 Which soon the furious Element repress'd:
 The Place's Name the wondrous Action shares,
 And thence, unchang'd by Time, to distant Ages
 bears.

LXXII.

NUMBERS, Chap. XI. Ver. 1. to 6.



v. 1. When the people complained, it displeased the Lord : and the Lord heard it ; and his anger was kindled ; and the fire of the Lord burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.

2. And the people cried unto Moses ; and when Moses prayed unto the Lord, the fire was quenched.

3. And he called the name of the place Taberah : because the fire of the Lord burnt among them.

LXXIII.

Quails Given. The People Plagu'd.

O H! who the Depths of Man's false Heart
can tell,
And base Ingratitude, as deep as Hell!
As fast as God can Pardon, we rebel :
Obnoxious Sinners think his Bolts too slow,
Challenge his Thunder, and prevent the blow.
The stubborn Mutineers, their Fellows slain,
Mercy to them, and Grace, indulg'd in vain,
Against the Hand that gave 'em Life complain :
For *Flesh* their cry, around the Camp it ran,
From every Tent 'twas heard, and every man :
Ye shall, said God: your raging Wish enjoy,
And with the fatal Grant your selves destroy !
One Day, nor Two, nor Twenty shall suffice,
Since you the Lord, and what he sends despise ;
For a full Month of Days you *Flesh* shall eat,
Till with the lusted Dainties all replete,
You loath, like Manna now, your own desire,
And sated with the Food unbless'd expire.

He said, when strait tempestuous Winds arise,
And fill with Clouds of *Quails*, the burthen'd Skies :
Tired with their Flight they fall the Camp around,
And cover wide away the Sandy Ground ;
Thick as th' unnumber'd Drops, when *Auster* brings
Warm fruitful Rains upon his Humid Wings.
The People seize the animated Show'r,
And half alive their bleeding Limbs devour.
Nor long behind the thankless Gluttons staid,
Nor was the threatn'd Vengeance long delay'd :
A sudden Plague from Heav'n th' Unjust consumes,
And late Posterity with Horror shows their Tombs.

LXXIII.

NUMBERS, Chap. XI. Ver. 31. to 34

132



v. 31. There went forth a wind from the Lord, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a days journey on this side, and as it were a days journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.

32. And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least, gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp, &c.

LXXIV.

*Aaron and Miriam's sedition, her Leprosie
and Cure.*

MOSES, on Earth the meekest Man in vain ;
The more he bears, the more the Crowd
complain :

The Foe to Goodness moves domestic Strife
Betwixt his haughty Sister and his Wife :
Ambition, Pride, and restless Female Rage,
Three pow'rful Fiends did on his side engage :
Place, and Preeminence, (which cou'd they chuse
What Woman wou'd not rather die than lose!)
The weighty Causes of their mutual Jarrings ;
This no Superior, that no Rival bears.

Miriam too weak, her Brother *Aaron* draws
Against their Sister to espouse her cause :
Moses for his unhappy choice they blame,
A *Cushite* she, their Stocks and Nations shame :
Silent he stood, nor in their Fewds engag'd,
With weightier Thoughts employ'd - the more en-
At length they into open Faction brake, (rag'd,
The Lord by them, as well as *Moses* spake :
Nor this th' All high, who from his radiant Throne
Regards the Meek, and still their Cause will own :
His well-known Glory in the Cloud appears,
Far off the whole Assembly kneels and fears :
A Voice from his Majestick Presence went,
Which *Aaron* call'd, and *Miriam* from their Tent :
Trembling they came, when thus *Zchova* said :

And

And were you not, audacious Pair ! affraid
Against my Servant *Moses* to repine,
And with th' accursed murm'ring Crowd combine ?
If *You* the Great Prophetic Office share
In Dreams and Visions I'll my will declare ;
But Face to Face with *Him* I'll speak, and he
Shall only my unclouded Glories see.

He said, and from the guilty Pair withdrew ;
The marks of heav'nly Anger soon they knew :
All o'r a ghastly Leper *Miriam* grown,
Unclean, deform'd, and to her self unknown :
Affrighted *Aaron* saw, to *Moses* ran,
Fell at his Feet, and thus with Tears began :
Our shameful Guilt and Folly we deplore
Goodness like yours, my Lord ! will ask no more :
That Mercy which your greatest Foe can spare
O now let a repenting Sister share !

He hears, he prays, and Heav'n did her restore,
The Plague remov'd, as sound and beauteous as be-
fore.

NUMBERS, Chap. XII.

v. 1. Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman, whom he had married, for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

2. And they said, hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses ? hath he not spoken also by us ? And the Lord heard it, &c.

LXXV.

The Spies and Bunch of Grapes.

IN Canaans Southern Bounds glad Israel stand
And of their Rulers send to search the Land :
By ancient Hebrons Tow'rs they took their way
And those tall Hills which round proud Jebus lay ;
Thence to delightful Jericho they came,
The City of Palm-Trees, widely known to Fame :
O'r Kishon's Foords, near Tabor's Mount and Fields,
Kishon, which to fair Jordan only yields,
The sounding Shores of Cinnereth survey ;
Their Journey thence to Jordan's Fountains lay,
Which under hoary Libanus arise,
Whose Ridges bound the Land, and threat the Skies.
Returning they to fruitful Eshcol came,
Thence Eshcol stil'd, before unknown to Fame :
Twas now the Time when Nature in her Pride
That happy Land with gen'rous Fruits supply'd :
With Golden Cheeks the rich Pomgranates shine,
And tempting Grapes load each luxuriant Vine.

LXXV.

NUMBERS, Chap. XIII.

135



v. 17, &c. Moses sent men to spy out the land of Canaan, and said, get you up, and see the land what it is, whether it be good or bad, fat or lean, &c.

23. And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomgranates, and of the figs.

24. The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence.

Of these they a vast Cluster with 'em bear,
Th' enormous weight Two of the Strongest share:
Brought on a knotty Staff with Sweat and Pain,
The knotty Staff cou'd scarce the Load sustain.
Full Forty Days expir'd at length they come
In an unlucky Hour to Paran home.

The Land, they must confess, was rich and good
Exuberant every where with Fruit and Food,
And all the needs of Life; But still they must
In their Accounts impartial be, and just,
And not betray the Peoples weighty Trust:
They were not fond of War, nor wish'd to try
The Force of their unequal Enemy:
Their Garisons were strong, their Walls were high,
Their num'rous People Bold and Warlike were,
Anak the Great, with his fierce Sons were there:
Proud *Amalek* the Southern Border fills,
The *Hittite* and the *Amorite* the Hills,
Themselves as Tall; bold *Febus* Sons the rest,
The *Canaanite* the Shore and *Jordan's* Coast posses'd.

LXXVI.

NUMBERS, Chap. XIV.

*The People murmur. Joshua and Caleb
endeavour to still them, &c.*

IT was a mournful and a tedious Night :
The fiery Pillar shot no friendly light,
A Pannic fear the trembling Camp invades,
Attack'd by Legions of infernal shades :
Discord and Malice, Discontent and Care
Ingratitude, Sedition, and Despair,
And Faction, fowlest Fiend of Hell were there.
Amid the Croud in close Cabals they lay
Preparing for the Mischief of the Day :
With sullen Gloom the luckless Day arose,
And did the Counsels of the Night disclose,
Gath'ring in Globes see the Tumultuous Crowd,
Pour'd from their Tents their Treasons vent aloud :
Nor only *Moses* now, but God accuse,
Both did deceive 'em, both their Faith abuse ;
To Canaan's hungry Sword their Host betray,
Their Wives and Children doom'd the Victor's prey :
This was too much, nor longer cou'd be born ;
What they cou'd yet prevent they vainly mourn,
A Captain made to *Egypt* they'll return.

Joshua and gen'rous *Caleb* stood their Ground,
 Of all the Spies, these only loyal found :
 In vain they strive the heated Crowd t' appease.

" If God in us delight and him we please,
 We soon shall in bless'd Canaan's Land repose,
 Bless'd Canaan's Land with Milk and Hony flows :
 The Natives vainly boast their Walls and Tow'rs,
 Their Strength, their Hearts are gone, and God is
 ours :

Deaf to their Charms th' Assembly furious grown
 A motion made they both the Traitors stone :
 Intrepid still the mighty *Moses* staid,
 And still to Heav'n that ne'r forsook him, pray'd :
 So when rude Winds the angry Billows chase,
 The stiddy Steersman they'd in vain displace,
 And dash the Salt-Sea Foam against his Face ;
 Whilst on the Star that must his Vessel guide
 Fixing his Eyes he scorns the Ocean's Pride.

And now the Glory' of God appears on high,
 And flashing Lightnings streak the angry Sky :
 The Factious Heads who the just War oppose,
 Abuse their trust and magnifie the Foes,
 By a swift Plague from Heav'n of Life bereft,
Caleb and faithful *Joshua* only left :
 The rest must to the howling Wild retire,
 And wand'ring Forty Years unlov'd, unbless'd ex-
 pire.

LXXVII.

NUMBERS, Chap. XVI.

KORAH's Rebellion.

NOR yet did Factions in th' Assembly cease,
For Korah's Arts disturb their short-liv'd
Of Levi's Sons too many Names he draws, (Peace :
Freedom the Plea, Int'rest and Pride the Cause :
Of heavy Grievances aloud they cry'd,
That Moses Rod did Aaron's Censer guide :
The Lordly Priests no longer they'l obey,
Mean Instruments of base Despotick Sway.
Moses of men the meekest they upbraid
That he'd their Ancient Liberties invade :

With these proud Dathan and Abiram join,
Of fault'ring Reuben's weak and angry Line.
And still they urge their forfeit Right Divine.
To them no Honour, no Preferments fall,
Aaron and Judah had engross'd 'em all :
They for their Birthright strive ; they Levi hate,
Yet Aid his angry Sons in this Debate.
These in the Sanhedrim of Name and Note,
And us'd to sway the House of Judgement's Vote ;
Whom the dull Crowd implicitly admir'd,
Hung on their Lips, and thought 'em all inspir'd :
The mingled Multitude, that murmur'd still,
From Egypt crowded on, and say'd against their will.

LXXVIII.

LXXVIII.

Dathan and Abiram swallowed up.

WHEN all things now were ripe for mischief grown,

Korah his Party heads, and leads 'em on :

Before the Altar they embattel'd stand

With each his kindled Censer in his Hand :

So far their Arts among the Tribes prevail,

That on their side the whole Assembly rail :

Moses and *Aaron* all deserted, blame,

(They did not so when they from *Egypt* came.)

Not one to own, or to defend 'em dares ;

Nor did they Numbers need, for God was theirs ;

When from the Cloud amazing Splendor broke,

And to his Servants thus *Zehova* spoke :

"Retire, my Friends, with speed from this devoted Place,

"And in a moment I'll consume this murm'ring Race.

The injur'd Saints for Mercy prostrate fall,

Shall one offend, and Vengeance seize on all !

They intercede a moment e'r too late,

And stop the issuing Word before 'twas Fate.

The *Sanhedrim* converted with 'em joyn,

They saw th' Appearance of the Pow'r Divine :

To *Dathan* and *Abiram*'s factious Tent,

So Heav'n commands, they with 'em trembling went,

(*Korah* and his, to just Destruction doom'd,

The while, are by the Fire of God consum'd.)

When *Moses* thus -- If these Offenders fall

The common way that Nature paves for all,

I ask no Faith that I from God am sent ;

But if impatient Heav'n their Fates prevent ;

LXXVIII.

NUMBERS, Chap. XVI. Ver. 19, 21.
22. 25. 28. to 34.

141



If gaping Earth shall them alive receive,
I'm no Impostor ; you'll my Words believe.

Nor sooner said when dire Convulsions heave
The lab'ring Earth -- Behold its surface cleave ;
The secret Realms of Ghosts and Shades display,
And let in Night upon th' invaded Day ;
When thro' the horrid Chasm the Traitors go,
And with loud Shrieks they sink, deep, deep to
Hell below.

LXXIX.

LXXIX.

*Moses smites the Rock, and brings forth
Water at Meribah.*

THE People now in Rekam's Borders stand,
Horrid with barren Rocks, and Hills of Sand:
Mountains on huge mishapen Mountains pil'd,
A Prospect hideous, terrible and wild :
The Pilgrim-Stream which thro' the Desart wide }
Following the num'rous Host their Thirst supply'd, }
Forsakes 'em here. - Th' Assembly Moses chide : }
Is this? is this the Canaan we must gain,
For which we travel'd cross the sandy Main,
And with vain Hopes forsook bless'd Egypt's Fields?
No Figs or Vines th' unhappy Region yields ;
No Seeds will on the barren Surface grow ;
Nor from the Rocks refreshing Waters flow.
When from the Cloud th' All-high to Moses spake,
The Rod of God agen commands him take ;
Then bid the Rock disclose its Secret Store,
And Wat'ry Treasures never known before :
Provok'd, the Prophet his Commission breaks,
And for the Rock the harder Crowd bespeaks.

Hear now, ye Rebels! must ye hence receive
Miraculous Streams, nor will ye yet believe?
Then smote the Rock, when from its flinty Womb
Tumbling in loud Cascades new Waters come
For all the Camp - But ah! how dear they cost!
For this the angry Brethren Canaan lost;

LXXIX.

NUMBERS, Chap. XX. from Ver. 1.
to 12.

143



Condemn'd to die in Sight of that bles'd Land,
For rashly disobeying Heav'n's Command.

Holy, and Just, and True! thine *Israel* spare!
Let *Levi* all unseemly Warmth forbear!
Like thee their Anger, tho' provok'd restrain;
So shall the Meek at length the Heav'nly Canaan
gain.

LXXX.

LXXX.

The Brazen Serpent set up.

THE Floodborn Prophet guides the sacred Host,
 Around their Brother *Edom's* hostile Coast :
 They thro' rough ways, thro' scorching Desarts go,
 Huge ragged Rocks above, and Sands below :
 Agen of God and *Moses* they complain,
 And tastful *Manna*, heavenly Food, disdain :
 The Lord displeas'd a dreadful Army sent
 Of fiery Serpents, who commanded went
 Attack'd the Camp, and enter'd every Tent :
 Among the rest himself th' Old Serpent came
 His Mouth, his Eyes shot Flakes of smoky Flame :
 Rais'd on his Folds, a Crown adorn'd his head,
 And hissing horrible his scaly Troops he led :
 Their Quarry seiz'd they poisnous Vapors breath }
 Around the Rebels twin'd, an odious Wreath, }
 And scatter every where Despair and Death :
 Those who escape to injur'd *Moses* fly,
 Their Guilt acknowledge, and for Mercy cry :
 To angry Heav'n he for the People prays,
 Which bids him strait a *Brazen Serpent* raise
 High in Mid-Air, which speedy Ease shou'd give,
 And all the wounded Host who look'd shou'd live.

Nor

LXXX.

NUMBERS, Chap. XXI. from Ver. 4.
to 9.

v. 5. The people spake against God, and against Moses, &c.

6. And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, &c.

8. And the Lord said unto Moses, make thee a fiery serpent, and set upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

9. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

Nor did he this Delay, nor this in vain,
 Whoever look, immediate ease obtain :
 Their dying Eyes they turn, new Life receive,
 Yet scarce themselves the wond'rous Cure believe.

O thou, who on the cursed Tree wert rais'd,
 While sinful Men and wond'ring Angels gaz'd :
 Whose Death our Life, whose charming Mercy
 brings

Health and Salvation underneath its Wings :
 Thy Merits to our wounded Souls apply,
 Those who believe in thee, O Saviour ! never die.

LXXXI.

Sihon and Og.

TO *Sihon's* Confines *Israel's* Sons drew near,
 Tyrants like him are never void of Fear :
 Their peaceful Host his jealous Court alarms,
 And the fierce King his servile Subjects arms :
 In vain the Pilgrims friendly Terms propose,
 He with no friendly Mind to meet 'em goes :
 Their Troops with their long March fatigu'd, assails,
 Yet soon the Justice of their Cause prevails.
 The Tyrant falls, his Slaves no longer stand,
 To his lov'd *Israel* God dispos'd their Land.
 A double Conquest now, but lately won,
 From *Lot's* incestuous Daughter's elder Son ;
 When *Heshbon* shin'd in Flames, and all its State,
 Cou'd not protect it from its ripen'd Fate.

Next, circling round, the sacred Army came,
 To *Bashan's* Region, not unknown to Fame.

Where

Where the rank Soil did Nature's Laws refuse,
 And Giant-Beasts, and Monster-Men produce,
 Huge Og their King, an Iron Army brought.
 In Edrei's Fields with trembling *Israel* fought.
 His Sons like lofty Pines around him stood;
 He, like a Cedar in the midst, o'relooking all the
 Wood.

An Iron gleam the hideous Monster made,
 His Guards, like Dwarfs, fought underneath his
 Shade.

Nor this discourag'd *Moses* from the Fight,
 Singly resolv'd to tempt his boasted might :
 Nor had his nervous Arms forgot to wield,
 The biting Ax, or pond'rous brazen Shield :
 The moody Tyrant fearless he assails,
 And in the Lord of Host's dread Name prevails.
 His Head that towr'd aloft, he cou'd not reach,
 But thro' his Bosom drives a fatal Breach :
 The spouting Life a Speedy Passage found,
 He falls a cumbrous Load, and dints the trembling
 Ground.

NUMBERS, Chap. XXI. Ver. 21. to the End.

v. 23. ---- Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

24. And Israel smote him with the edge of the sword, &c.

33. ---- Og the king Bashan went out against them he, and all his people, &c.

35. So they smote him and his sons, and all his people, until there was none left him alive, &c.

LXXXII.

Balak sends to Balaam, &c. The Ass
speaks.

When Heav'n will blast a lofty Tyrant's reign,
His Cunning and his Force are all in vain :
In vain he strives against its strong Decree,
His Hopes are Wind, his End is Infamy.
This, Balak, Lord of faithless Moab found,
When Israel's Songs approach'd his Eastern Bound :
When human Succours fail, to Hell he goes,
With curs'd Enchantments to confound his Foes.
To Balaam, thro' the East too widely known,
By Magic infamously famous grown ;
Who by strong Charms, and many a secret Spell,
The servile Gods cou'd to his Aid compel :
No vulgar Embassy the Tyrant sends,
Of Moab's Lords, and Midianitish Friends :
T' enquire of Heav'n the Sorcerer pretends.
But to the Fiends in dead of Night he goes,
And asks their Counsel to destroy their Foes.
In vain obsequious to his Charms they come,
His Threats in vain, their Oracles are dumb.
When lo ! a heav'nly Light the Room invades,
And chases thence the foul infernal Shades :
They durst not stay, for God himself was there,
Concern'd for Israel, his peculiar Care ;
Beware, he crys, audacious Wretch beware,
Move not a Foot, thou canst not hope success,
Nor canst thou curse the Man whom God will
bless.

Trembling

LXXXII.

NUMBERS, Chap. XXII. Ver. 4. to 35.

149



v. 28. --- The ass said unto Balaam, what have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?

29. And Balaam said unto the ass, because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.

30. And the ass said unto Balaam, am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine, unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? and he said, nay.

31. Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand, &c.

Trembling he heard, unwillingly obey'd,
 And Balak's Lords return'd, behind 'em stay'd.
 But when a second Embassy he sent,
 The wav'ring Wizard rose, and with 'em went.
 The Wages of Unrighteousness he chose,
 But see a Mighty Angel him oppose :
 His Ass at first the shining Form espy'd,
 And started oft, and oft he turn'd aside.
 In vain he strikes, and works her to the Road,
 Till down she sinks beneath her impious Load.
 With silent Looks complaining of the Wrong,
 When Heav'n, (What cannot Heav'n !) unloos'd
 her Tongue.

With human Voice form'd in her secret Breast,
 She the mad Prophet's brutal Rage repress'd ;
 Whose eyes unseal'd, he sees the Angel stand,
 A flaming Sabre in his vengeful Hand,
 Pointed against his Breast ; to Earth he falls,
 And half a Penitent, for Mercy calls.
 The Angel lets him still pursue his way,
 But bids him only what high Heav'n shou'd di-
 cte, say.

LXXXIII.

NUMBERS, Chap. XXII. 39. 41.
 XXIII. 1. 5. 7. to 10. 21. to 24.

Balak meets Balaam. His Sacrifice, &c.

TO Huzzoth's Town the King and Prophet
 come,
 Which from its spacious Streets receiv'd its Name ;
 To

To Baal's high Places thence together go,
 There to survey and curse their hated Foe :
 Sev'n Altars that false Wizard bids them rear,
 A Bullock and a Ram on each prepare ;
 Thus did the Zabii's Heathen Rites advise,
 And to the Planets thus they sacrifice.
 When lo a Pow'r unknown the Sage oppress'd,
 Spake with his Lips, and struggled in his Breast :
 Heav'n, which before his Ass's Tongue did loose,
 Her impious Master's now is pleas'd to use :
 Unwillingly inspir'd he can't forbear,
 But must these bold ungrateful Truths declare.

" In vain has Balak me from Aram sought,
 " In vain has from the Eastern Mountains brought,
 " Jacob to curse, and Israel to distress,
 " Ah ! who can curse the Man whom God will bless ?
 " Vain Idols he in Jacob has not found,
 " Whose shameful Worship fills the Nations round.
 " What Charms can then against his Sons prevail ?
 " Divining's lost, and strong Enchantments fail.
 " I see him from the Mountains wide away,
 " And from the craggy Rocks his Camps survey :
 " His God's peculiar choice, he dwells alone,
 " His Numbers as the Dust or Sand unknown.
 " With him, O let me to the Grave descend !
 " What e'er my Life, like his I'd wish my End.
 " Is God like Man, to Lie, or to Repent ?
 " Who can his Words reverse, or who prevent ?
 " What Jubilees, what Triumphs shall proclaim
 " The peaceful Kings, the Great Messiah's Name ?
 " His Israel God from Egypt's Bondage led ;
 " See his protecting Cloud around him spred !
 " Couch'd like a Lion safe beneath its Shade,
 " What desp'rate Mortal dares his awful Rest in-
 " yade ?

LXXXIV.

NUMBERS, Chap. XXIV.

Balaam *blesses* Israel. *He Prophesies of Christ, the Assyrians, and Romans, &c.*

When Balaam found his Charms had no Success,
But his own Israel God resolv'd to bless ;
Delusive Auguries he sought no more
Nor follow'd curs'd Enchantments as before :
Another Spi'rit had seiz'd the alter'd Sage,
And swell'd his Bosom with diviner Rage :
Fierce Balak's Anger he does now disdain,
(His Golden Promises alike in vain,) {
And thus of all the World the distant Fates explain.

“ How goodly, Jacob ! are thy Tents ! how fair !
“ They with the fertile Valleys may compare ;
“ Or Gardens richly deck'd with Nature's Pride,
“ Whose Verdant Trees by some fair River's Side
“ Like Cedars Tall in comely Order grow,
“ And view their Branches in the Streams below :
“ Beyond a Mortal's Skill their vast Design,
“ The Model and the Structure all divine.
“ To me th' Almighty has his Will declar'd ;
“ What Visions have I seen, what Wonders heard ?
“ Far off I see a radiant Star arise,
“ And with new wond'rous Light adorn the Skies :
“ The Orient shall his fated Empire gain,
“ Of Jacob's Race the Great Messiah reign :
“ Moab and all the Heathen Lands his Prey,
“ The spacious Globe shall his Commands obey.

Thy

Thy Sons, Proud *Amalek* ! he next surveys
 In Canaan's Southern Bounds, and thus he says.
 " Of all the Nations Thou didst first declare
 " Against God's Favourite People impious War :
 " Too weak thy Arms, unequal this Debate,
 " Ruin, eternal Ruin is thy Fate.

To *Jethro*'s Offspring next he turns his Eyes :
 " Strong is thy Dwelling-Place, thy choice is wise ;
 " Happy Exchange, he says ; yet all in vain,
 " Thy Doom at length to wear Proud *Asher*'s Chain :
 " Ah who shall live that sees that luckless Day !
 " Yet worse behind ! behold the Western Sea
 " Cover'd with Ships, whence *Chittim*'s Offspring
 " And thy renowned Sons, O future *Rome* ! "(come,
 " *Ashur* must fall, and *Heber* strives in vain,
 " For so the strong Decrees of Fate ordain :
 " Nor shall their haughty Victor long survive ;
 " Empire, like Men, their stated Periods live :
 " Eternal *Rome* must die, her Reign is o'r,
 " Tumbling from her proud Hills she falls to rise no
 " more.

LXXXV.

NUMBERS, Chap. XXV.

Zimri and Cozbi.

WHAT Hell's and *Moab*'s Force and Fraud com-
 bin'd,
 In vain attempted and in vain design'd,
 At length by Female Guile accomplish'd see,
 And *Israel* naked to its Enemy !

Each

Each Civil Host, t' oblige his Hebrew Friend,
Their Gods, and more, their Wives and Daughters
lend ;

Whose Charms than *Balaam's* Curses far more strong,
More pow'rful Magic in their Eyes and Tongue :

With these they their enchanted Guests intice

To their lewd Idols pompous Sacrifice :

Peor of old, thro' *Moabs* Regions fam'd,

In after-Days the foul *Priapus* nam'd.

Nor did th' unnurtur'd Crowd alone rebel,
For in the specious Snare their Nobles fell :

Zimri, a noted Chief of *Simeons* Race,

Who Private Lewdness only, thought disgrace,

In open Day false *Cozbi* with him brings,

Sprung from the Stem of *Midianitish* Kings :

Nor Zealous *Phineas* this, who snatch'd a Spear

Which double Death on its Sharp Point did wear,

And in the very Act of Lewdness found

Transfix'd em both, and nail'd em to the Ground :

Nor this without Commission he presum'd,

For God's dread Word before to Death had doom'd

Each Wretch whom foul Idolatry had stain'd :

Nor unrewarded his just Zeal remain'd :

Those guilty Victims angry Heav'n appeas'd,

And in the Camp the wide Contagion ceas'd :

The Covenant of Peace his Justice gains,

An everlasting Priesthood he obtains.

Has bounteous Heav'n exhausted all its store ?

And can unbounded Goodness give no more ?

There is, there is, a sure Reward for those

Who own its Cause against its mighty Foes :

Who bear the Sword with an impartial Hand,

And in the Breach, firm and undaunted stand,

To punish daring Vice, and save a Guilty Land. }

LXXXVI.

NUMBERS, Chap. XXXI.

The War with Midian.

VEngeance divine, unerring, tho' 'tis slow,
Suspends its Arm to give the greater Blow.
For all the Whores and Gods that *Midian* gave
The chosen Race to weaken and enslave,
Twelve Thousand Warriours harness'd for the
Fight

Must now their curs'd Civilities requite:
Brave *Phinehas* gladly leads the chosen Band,
The Trump of God adorns his strong Right-Hand:
In vain th' unequal Foes their Host surround,
And like unnumber'd Locusts spread the Ground.
Sound! Sound a Charge! They shake, they bend,
they fly,

And *Israel* gains an easy Victory.

False *Midian*'s haughty Princes strive in vain,
Zur, *Evi*, *Rekem*, *Hur*, and *Reba* slain;
Whose Fate their Wizard-Prophet *Balaam* shares,
Victorious *Israel*'s just Revenge he bears,
He scap'd the Angel's Sword, but cou'd not }
theirs.

Into the Countries Heart (their Army broke)
They pierce, and gain their Towns without a
stroke.

With Fire and Sword the Treach'rous Race
pursue,
Their Palaces they burnt, their Men they slew.

But

But a false Pity pleaded for the Fair,
 The fatal Causes of the War they spare :
 These with uncounted Spoils, they bear away,
 And to their Brethrens joyful Camp convey :
 When *Moses* saw, his Anger justly rose :
 " --- What Madness this, to spare your strongest
 Foes ?
 " A mortal Plague they brought, themselves a worse ;
 " Where *Balaam* cou'd not, these prevail'd to curse.
 " Your Swords against the splendid Serpents turn,
 " Who have their Thousands slain : Let *Midian*
 mourn,
 " As *Israel* did before -- They plead in vain ;
 Just, tho' severe their Doom, the specious Plagues
 are slain.

LXXXVII.

DEUTERONOMY, Chap. XXVII.

Ebal and Gerizim.

IM *Moab*'s Borders now the People stand,
 Whom *Moses* thus accosts by Heav'n's com- }
 mand : }
 When *Jordan* pass'd, you seize the Promis'd
 Land ; }
 Two hanging Rocks you'll see with equal Pride
 Thrust out their rugged Fronts on either side : }
 Like

Like some huge Arches distant Ruins show,
Whose mould'ring Walls affright the Vale below :

Be half the People plac'd on *Ebal's* Brim,
The other on the cloudy *Gerizim* :
When *Levi* thus the Curses shall repeat
Which G O D's just Laws on harden'd Sinners threat.

Curs'd be the Man who Gold or Silver takes,
And an abominable Idol makes !
In vain he sets it in a secret Place ;
Just Vengeance him shall find, and all his Race.

An equal Curse those Wretches shall oppress
Who slight their Aged Parents in distress :
Those who the Ancient Land-Mark move away,
And those who make the helpless Blind to stray :
Who poor unfriended Strangers shall oppress,
Or wrong the Widow, and the Fatherless :
Whom Incest, or unnatural Crimes delight,
Or who in secret shall their Neighbour smite :
Who for Reward the Innocent pursue,
Or who in Blood their guilty Hands embrue :
Who not confirm each awful Word they hear ;
All are accus'd, and all their Sin shall bear :
While distant Eccho sounds each Curse agen,
All *Israel* to each Curse shall give their loud
Amen !

LXXXVIII.

Moses's *View of Canaan. His Death, Burial, and Elegy.*

HOW dear did One rash Word the Prophet cost!
 For this his Life, and more, he *Canaan* lost:
 His temperate Youth with vigorous Age was bless'd,
 And no Decays his num'rous Years confess'd:
 His Eyes as full of Fire, his Pulse as warm
 As when th' abhorr'd *Egyptian* felt his Arm:
 Yet he must die -- But first the Favour gain'd
 To see the Land for *Israel's* Sons ordain'd:
 Behold him to the Top of *Pisgah* go,
 And view the Country and the Clouds below!
 Sweet *Jericho*'s delightful Town and Plain,
 And *Judah's* Lot to the Great Western Main:
 From thence to North survey with longing Eyes,
 Where goodly *Lebanon*'s fair Cliffs arise,
 Whose Tall Eternal Cedars threat the Skies.
 Last of the Southern Wild a Prospect take
 To *Casiotis*, and the *Syron*-Lake:
 He cou'd no more, but on the Turf reclin'd,
 As meekly as he liv'd, his Soul resign'd:
 Officious Seraphs bare his Soul away,
 And to a happier *Canaan* him convey:

LXXXIX.

DUTERONOMY, Chap. XXXIV.

159



v. 1. Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho: and the Lord shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, &c.

v. 4. And the Lord said unto him, this is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

v. 5, 6: And Moses the servant of the Lord died there; but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

But God himself his Fun'ral Honours pay'd,
 And in a Tomb unknown to Mortals laid :
 Nor this enough, O favour'd Saint for thee ;
 Since God himself thus wrote thy Elegy.

“ What Prophet by the Sacred Breath inspir'd,
 “ What Friend of God with Holy Raptures fir'd,
 “ Whose Deathless Name can equal Glories share,
 “ Or with my Servant *Moses* can compare ?
 “ With Mortal Eyes th' Invisible he saw,
 “ On trembling *Sinai*'s Top receiv'd the Law :
 “ From *Egypt*'s Fetters ransom'd *Israel* brought,
 “ And in their sight, dread Signs, and mighty Won-
 ders wrought.

LXXXIX.

JO SHUA, Chap. I. Ver. 1. 2. Chap. II.
 Rahab and the Spies.

En tomb'd in *Moab*'s Valley *Moses* lies ;
Jehova bids the Valiant *Joshua* rise ;
 Second in Honour fill his Vacant Place,
 And to their happy Seats conduct the chosen Race :
 The Prudent General's Thoughts and Care no less,
 Tho' Heav'n itself assures him of Success :
 Two Spies to neighb'ring *Jericho* he sent,
 Nor undiscover'd thro' the Guards they went :
 The jealous King appriz'd of their Intent,

With

With speed his Guards to faithful *Rahab* sends,
But *Rahab's* House conceals her Hebrew Friends :
The Souldiers hope in vain their Prey to find,
Pour'd thro' the Eastern Gate as swift as Wind, }
In vain pursuing those who staid behind ; }
To whom their Fair Preserver thus begins :

" Too well we know the weight of Canaan's Sins :
" Your Title and Possession Heav'n secures ;
" Yours are our Cities, and our Land is Yours :
" A Panic Fear does every Breast invade,
" We faint, we melt, of *Israel's* Arms afraid.
" We've heard how God did you thro' Seas convey,
" While parting Waters show'd your wond'rous
" What you to *Sidon* and to *Og* have done, (way :
" Trembling we hear, and make their Fates our own :
" Since then with hazard of my Life conceal'd,
" Nor to the threatening cheated Guards reveal'd,
" The Mercy I have shown you, let me find,
" And to my Father's House be just and kind.
" Swear by the Pow'r that loves your Nation Swear
" The hungry Sword their precious Lives shall
spare :

They did, then o'r the Wall she lets 'em down,
They to the Mountain flee, and leave the Town :
Three Days conceal'd in Palm-Tree Groves they lay
Almost impervious to the All-searching Day ;
Then fording *Jordan*, to the Camp repair ;
To *Joshua* and the rest the joyful news they bear.

XC.

Jordan divided. Israel passes over.

THE Host of God, a mighty Host, remain,
Near *Jordan's* Banks decamp'd from *Shittim's* Plain :

With longing Eyes they view'd, unsatisfy'd,
Their promis'd Fields that grac'd his *Western* side, }
Still to their Wishes and their Vows deny'd ;
For *Jordan* now his slimy Banks o'reflows,
And broad as Father *Nile*, or *Ganges* grows : }
In vain, for Nature to her Lord gives way :
When Seas divide, can Rivers not obey ?
The Priests, in Stoles of purest Linen, bear
The dreadful Ark, and to the Brink repair ;
Nor sooner on the utmost Rivage tread,
When, lo ! the Waters saw, and backward fled, }
Their ancient Course forgot, and Oozy Bed ;
Far, far away to *Adam's* distant Strand,
And furl'd on Heaps like Icy Mountains stand : }
While those below fail from the Salt-sea Plain,
Whose thirsty Soil expects their cooling Waves
in vain.

This great Event the trembling Guards perceive,
From *Jericho*, and scarce their Eyes believe :
Thick on the Walls and Battlements they stood,
To their chill Hearts retir'd the curdling Blood :
They saw the ransom'd Flock come safely o're,
And with glad Shouts salute the welcom Shore :
Twelve weighty Stones from *Jordan* saw them take,
And Signals of their wondrous Passage make :

XC.

JOSHUA, Chap. III. Ver. 1. to 17.
Chap. IV. Ver. 5. to 18.

163



Chap. IV. Ver. 5. Joshua said, Pass over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel.

6. That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean you by these stones?

7. Then ye shall answer them, &c.

Nor sooner had the Priests the Channel pass'd,
 Who as they enter'd first, ascended last :
 The Firm no sooner by their Sandals press'd,
 And on the sedgy Banks the Ark did rest ;
 When *Jordan* breaks with burst of Thunder's
 roar,
 Like some fierce Eagre sweeps each sounding }
 Shore,
 And shoots its foaming Waves as widely as before.

XCI.

JO SHU A, Chap. V. Ver. 13. to the End.

Joshua sees the Captain of the Lord's Host.

NOW Israel's Army *Jericho* invest,
 And with a strong Blockade 'tis closely
 press'd :
 Alone the fearless *Joshua* walks the round,
 To view the Place, if any weakness found,
 Or to surprize, or storm from advantageous }
 Ground.

Thoughtful he stood, reclining on his Spear,
 When lo ! he sees an awful Form appear.
 Mortal he seem'd, yet more than mortal Grace,
 And Splendor terrible adorn'd his Face.
 A Sword he grasp'd, as bright as it were made,
 Of a portentous Comets flaming Blade :
 When thus the General of the chosen Host,
 The Great unknown undaunted did accost.

" From

“ From whence, and whose? What art thou, soon
 “ declare,
 “ For Canaan or for Israel, Peace or War?
 Michael am I, the shining Form reply’d,
 Sent from the Throne the Host of God to guide:
 Prostrate the General falls, and prints the Sand,
 And waits for his Superior’s dread Command;
 He bids, to loose his Sandals not disdain,
 Nor with irreverend Steps the hallow’d Place
 profane:
 Joshua obeys, new Orders he receives,
 Whom, mounting to the Clouds, the heav’nly Vi-
 sions leaves.

XCII.

*The Walls of Jericho fall down, the City
 taken: Rahab and her Family preserv’d.*

HOW vain are human Arts, whose best
 Defence,
 Betrays our Guilt, or owns our Impotence.
 The strongest Walls an inward Fear confess,
 Corslets and Shields, and glittering Helms no less;
 And Force or Fraud o’er our weak Frames prevail,
 Tho’ arm’d with Tow’rs, or wall’d with Coats of
 Mail.

If from our fellow Mortals unsecure,
 What Fortress can, against just Heav’n ensure? }
 What rocky Ramparts may its Bolts endure? }
 Nor needs it the red Thunder still unsheathe,
 Nor grants each guilty Wretch so great a Death.

It can with Arms contemptible confound,
 And solid Substance shake with airy Sound :
 This, *Jericho*, thy tott'ring Walls declare,
 No Steel-head Rams, no streng Machins of War
 Provok'd that Fate which for thy Crimes was just,
 And roll'd thy ancient Honours in the Dust :
 But *Israel's* Sons, so Heav'n commands, surround
 Thy Ramparts with the clanging Trumpet's sound :
 The Priests, the Ark in long Procession bore,
 The harness'd Warriors silent march'd before :
 A Week of Days they prosecute their Toil,
 While from the Walls th' abhorr'd *Barbarians* smile :
 But scarce the seventh bless'd Morn had deck'd the
 Skies,

When with new Hopes inspir'd th' Assembly rise :
 Sev'n times the nodding Tow'rs and Walls they
 pass'd,

And *Joshua* gives the Signal at the last :
 Now shout, he said, your Conquest Heav'n assures ;
 Ascend ! for the devoted Town is yours :
 Let *Rahab* live, but all the rest must die,
 So loud their ripen'd Sins for Vengeance cry :
 The Spoil is God's, beware th' accursed Thing,
 Lest on yourselves and us the Curse you bring.

He said, with shouts the Army rends the Skies,
 Tumble the Walls, thick Clouds of Dust arise :
 So bursts a Torrent from the Mountains side,
 So roars the Thunder thro' the Welkin wide :
 Each in his Rank ascends from where he stood,
 The City's won, and fill'd with Fire and Blood.
Rahab alone her Countries Loss survives,
 And with her Fathers House in *Israel* lives ;
 Whom Holy Bands to Princely *Salmon* joyn,
 Whence a long Race of Kings in *Judah's* sacred
 Line.

XCII.

JOSHUA, Chap. IV. Ver. 20. to 23.

167



v. 20. The people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

21. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, &c.

23. ---But they brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had, &c.

XCIII.

J O S H U A, Chap. VII. and VIII.

Achan and Ai.

Hunger of Gold, and Sacrilegious Thirst,
 Unsatisfied to be alone accus'd,
 Your pois'nous Influence larger Conquests gains,
 And blasts th' unhappy Nation where it reigns.
 One *Achan* Israels Glory can deface,
 And spread wide Vengeance round the sacred Race.
 For *Ai*, Three Thousand Warriors now prepare,
 More than enough their Force, had God been there,
 --- But he was gone, and Conquest with him led,
 Before their feeble Enemies they fled :
 Some fall transfix'd, and wounded some return ;
 They melt, they faint, the whole Assembly mourn :
 Prostrate on Earth afflicted *Joshua* lay
 With *Israel's* Elders all that luckless Day,
 Their Cloths they rend ; around 'em Sackloth spread,
 And scatter Dust on each dishonour'd Head.
 When God to *Joshua* did the Crime disclose,
 Which made his People naked to their Foes :
 The blasting Sacrilegious Guilt reveals,
 Tho' for a while the guilty Wretch conceals :

But that th' unerring Lot at length decides,
And Tribe from Tribe, and House from House
divides :

Singling at last devoted *Achan's* Head,
Paler than Death when his black Name was read :
Trembling and manifest of Guilt he stands,
When *Joshua* mildly all the Truth demands,
As best becomes a Judge -- Th' accurs'd replies
His Sacrilege confess'd, and Avarice ;
Among the Spoils he saw a goodly Prize,
A Royal Garment, glorious to behold,
Embroder'd rich, and squalid all with Gold :
And near, a Golden Wedge inviting lay'd ;
The precious Spoils he to the Camp convey'd :
Nor these alone, a Heap of Silver coin'd
Hid close in Earth they in his Tent might find.
Both these, and all who did his Crime partake
They with their Sire a just Example make :
Beneath a Show'r of Stones the Traitors groan,
And happy He by whom the First was thrown.
When thus they angry Heav'n's fierce Wrath ap-
pease,

Proud *Ai* is conquer'd and destroy'd with ease.

" Might all our *Achan's* such a Vengeance see,
" Our *Israel* cou'd not miss to gain the Victory.

XCIV.

JOSHUA, Chap. IX. and X.

Gibeon makes a League with Joshua.
 The Kings discomfited who combin'd
 against it. The Sun and the Moon
 stand still.

THE Tidings soon thro' Canaan's Regions
 flown,
 They hear their Neighbour's Fates, and dread
 their own :
 Yet justly harden'd in their Crimes oppose
 With Force united their unequal Foes :
 Gibeon alone by Wiles a Peace obtain'd,
 Gladly their Lives, tho' not their Freedom gain'd :
 Against whose Walls the Lord of *Jebus* brings
 A num'rous Host of tributary Kings :
Hebron, and *Farmuth*, and strong *Lachish* joyn'd,
 With learned *Debir*'s pow'rful Prince combin'd :
 The *Gibeonites* distress'd with Numbers, fly
 For Succour to their New and Great Ally :
 Oblig'd by sacred Oaths to their Defence,
 For sacred Oaths cou'd then oblige a Prince :
 Brave *Joshua* heard, nor timely help delay'd,
 But marches strait to his Confed'rates Aid :

All Night he march'd, and as the Morning rose,
Fell furious in upon his careless Foes :
Th' Intrenchments gain'd, How vast a Carnage
made ?

And roll'd in Dust, what heaps of Princes laid ?

Slaughter was glutted, Ruin wanted Breath,
And panting *Hades* scarce cou'd follow Death :
Who scap'd the hungry Sword, in vain wou'd fly,
Beneath prodigious Show'rs of Hail they die :
A dismal Gleam th' affrighted Sun did yield,
And gather'd sanguine Vapours from the Field :
When *Joshua* stretch'd aloft his knotty Spear,
And thus began, " Ye rolling Heav'ns, give Ear !
' Attend, O silent Moon ! thou Solar Brightness,
 " hear !

" ---Stand! --- in your Maker's Name, I charge you
 " stand,

" While *Israel* executes his dread Command !

They heard ; the great Machine no longer rolls,
It stood unmov'd and stable as the Poles :
Nature the stop perceiv'd, and shook for fear,
She thought her fatal Period now was near :
Scarce more amaz'd, when this great Frame gives
 way,

And Earth and Heav'n shall mingled fall at the last
dreadful Day.

XCV.

JOSHUA, Chap. XXIII. and XXIV.

*Joshua's Advice, and last Speech to Israel.
His Death.*

When Canaan's Natives slain or dispossess'd,
 And God by *Joshua* gave his *Israel* rest ;
 Bending with Age his Dust to Dust inclin'd,
 But firm and vigorous still his deathless Mind :
 E're what was Mortal to Corruption falls,
 Of *Israel's* States he an Assembly calls,
 Then thus began--- Near broad *Euphrates* side,
 Your Paynim Fathers did of old reside :
 From thence was *Abr'ham* call'd to this bles'd
 Land,
 Whose Seed unnumber'd as the Stars or Sand :
 Nor have you yet forgot the Wonders wrought,
 When God your Fathers out of *Egypt* brought,
 Nor how the *Amorites* against you fought : }
 How treach'rrous *Balak* did for *Balaam* send,
 How vain his Curses, how deserv'd his End.
 What Nations leagu'd your Conquests to prevent,
 Destroy your Name, and frustrate Heav'n's intent :

Heav'n

Heav'n, which has now subdu'd your pow'rful Foe,
And not your own Right-hand, your Sword or
Bow;

Has giv'n a Land where Milk and Honey flow:
Whose happy Fields without your Toil, produce
The Olives, and the Grapes reviving Juice:
What shall you for his Goodness, then repay?
Zehovah fear, and him sincere, obey.

That Idol-Fire which *Chezed's* Sons adore,
Th' Egyptian Gods, which vainly guard their Shore,
Exterminate their very Names, and be
Alone devote to *Israel's* Deity.

If this bless'd Service you ingrate, refuse,
Declare whose Altars you design to chuse!

---Or those which *Abraham* did in *Ur* forsake,
Or *Canaan's* Gods, whose helpless Shrines you brake?
For me and mine, while vital Breath shall last,
Our happy Choice is made, our Lot is cast:

To God alone we'll Adoration pay,
To *Israel's* God, whom Earth and Heav'n obey.

He said, Then does his Limbs to Rest compose,
And whilst his Eyes surrounding Princes close,
To *Abraham's* Bosom, and his great Fore-fathers
goes.

XCVI.

*War with the Canaanites. Bezek taken.
Adoni-bezek punish'd.*

TO Shiloh's Oracle the Tribes repair,
And wait for Orders to renew the War :
Warn'd by their murmur'ring Fathers impious Rage,
They dare no more without Command engage :
Brave Judah's Sons the Posts of Honour gain,
Which with sev'n harness'd Myriads they maintain ;
Their Royal Lion warring in the Field,
Unknowing to retreat, and less to yield :
Proud Bezek's spacious Walls with Turrets crown'd,
On ev'ry side the Host of God surround :
Too weak the Town to bear their first attack,
They push the Foe, they storm, they gain, they sack ;
While Bezek's haughty Lord resists in vain,
Nor can his trembling Guards the Fight maintain :
Ignoble Flight with like Success he tries,
A short Reprieve with Shame too dearly buys :
Pursu'd and seiz'd, the same hard Fate he bore,
Which sev'nty Kings had done from him before ;
Who glean'd their Meat beneath the Tyrant's Board,
The Footstools they of their imperious Lord ;
Maim'd and abus'd--- he still prolong'd their Breath,
As envy'ng them the Luxury of Death.
He owns his Fate is Just--- and so must all,
Who as they trace his Crimes may share his Fall :
Stifled with Malice, Pride and Rage he dies,
To clear a Providence, and vindicate the Skies.

CXVI.

JUDGES, Chap. I. from Ver. 1. to
Ver. 8.

175



Ver. 5. They found Adoni-bezek in Bezek : and they fought against him, and they slew the Canaanites, and the Perizzites.

6. But Adoni-bezek fled, and they pursued after him and caught him, and cut off his thumbs and his great toes.

7. And Adoni-bezek said, Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table : as I have done, so God hath requited me.

XCVII.

Judah conquers Hebron and Debir.
Achsah given to Othniel.

STrong Hebron next thro' Canaan's Regions fam'd,
Of old from *Anakean Arba* nam'd ;
Judah's victorious Army dar'd oppose,
Who saw unmov'd their huge Gigantic Foes :
The monstrous Sons of *Anak* saw from far,
Each nodding Terrour, each himself a War.
Low in the Plain encamp'd the *Hebrews* lay,
Whom from the Walls with scorn their Foes survey :
Behold above the rest proud *Shehai* stand,
Who own'd no God but his own strong Right-hand :

The Fear of *Israel* he aloud defies,
And darts retorted curses at the Skies :
Nor valiant *Othniel* this, who from below,
Shoots o're the Hill to meet th' unequal Foe :
Thro' Darts, thro' Swords, thro' Show'rs of Death
he's born,

Thro' rocky Fragments from the Mountain torn :
See him upon the tallest Rampart stand,
And meet the bold Blasphemer hand to hand :
His well-known Sword he rais'd (the dreadful
Blade,

With choicest Skill at rich *Damascus* made,)
And cleaves him to the Twist.-----
---Still like a half demolish'd Tow'r he stood,
And his warm Entrails spouted Seas of Blood :

At length he falls, and num'rous Crowds beneath,
In his wide Ruins find their Grave and Death :
Dread and Dismay the weak Defendants seize,
By *Israel* trampled, and destroy'd with ease.

To Debir next victorious Othniel goes,
Their Battlements he scales, and routs his Foes :
Below the beauteous *Achsah* view'd the Fight,
Honour and Love at once enflam'd her Knight :
Honour bids high, but Love had stronger Charms,
He comes, and reaps the Fruit of Conquest in her
Arms.

JUDGES, Chap. I. Ver. 10. to 13.

Ver. 10. And Judah went against the Canaanites that dwelt in Hebron, (now the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba) and they slew Sheshai and Ahiman, and Talmai.

11. And from thence he went against the inhabitants of Debir : (and the name of Debir before was Kirjath-sepher,)

12. And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjath-sepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife.

13. And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it : and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife.

XCVIII.

Dekorah and Barak. Jael and Sisera.

FOR Israel's Sins fierce *Zabin* them subdues,
And baffled Canaan's desp'rate Claim renews ;
While *Sis'ra* his victorious Char'ots leads,
And Slaughter all around, and Ruin spreads :
Lopp'd Arms, and bleeding Heads lie strow'd beneath

His Murd'ring Scythes, too hard for Time or Death :
His fiery Coursers trampling o'er the Plain,
Their brazen Hoofs dash round a sanguine Rain. }

Degen'rate *Isr'el* Sons embrace their Chain,
Their very Souls enslav'd--- But heav'n can find
In female Breasts a more than manly Mind :
The Sex that boast themselves for Empire made,
Had dropp'd the Sword, the Sov'reign Pow'r betray'd :

Undaunted *Deborah* reclaims their Right,
And with *Abin'am*'s Son descends to fight :
The Heathen hear, their dreadful Chariots arm,
And on the Banks of ancient *Kishon* swarm ;
Clust'ring above, an Iron-Wall, they stood,
Breast-high, God's Army marches o're the Flood :
They cast their Darts, they mount, they joyn, they
And *Sis'ra* bears the News of his Defeat : (beat,
Inglorious Chief ! himself the News did bring,
He sav'd his precious Life for Canaan's King.
--- How short the Life which he in vain did save ?
How soon the fatal Stroke a Woman gave ?
Sleeping he dies, unknowing yields his Breath,
Now first courageous seems, for now he smiles on
Death.

XCVIII.

XCVIII.

JUDGES, Chap. IV. Ver. 1. to 22.

179



Ver. 21. Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastned it into the ground : (for he was fast asleep and weary) so he died.

22. And behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail was in his temples.

XCIX.

JUDGES, Chap. V. from Ver. 2. to
the End.*The Song of Deborah and Barak.*

WHEN God his chosen Flock with Conquest
 bless'd,
The pious *Deb'rah* thus his Praise express'd :

Let *Israel* their Avenger's Glory raise,
In lofty Notes of everlasting Praise !
Hear, O ye Kings ! attentive Princes hear,
A wond'rous Song that well deserves your Ear !
When *Israel*'s God from hostile *Edom* came,
With his own Thunder arm'd, array'd in Flame ;
Trembled the Earth, as o're the Clouds he rode,
The Cloud's dissolve to Rain, and own the incum-
 bent God.
The Mountains Tops at his approach retire,
Their molten Entrails run in streams of Fire.

O, how unlike, those novel Gods, and vain
Weak unavailing Names ! no help they yield,
War, War the Gates resound, and War the Field ! }
Th' alarm in vain is giv'n, of Spear and Shield. }
By their insulting jealous Lords bereft,
No refuge but inglorious Flight was left :
When *Deborah* arose at Heav'n's Command,
When I arose to save the Orphan'd Land :
Bless'd be their Names, the gen'rous Few, that join'd
To urge the happy Change by Heav'n design'd !

By,

By Counsel or by Action, Pen or Sword,
To save their Country, and to help the Lord :
But curse ye *Meroz* ! an uncommon weight
Of Vengeance seize 'em, and a Neuter's Fate !
They wou'd the Spoil, tho' not the Danger, share,
When *Sisera* is falm, they'll now declare.
--- His Boasts, his fruitless Hopes, his Fears are
o're;

He bow'd, he fell, he sunk, to rise no more.

So let thy Foes, O God ! to Dust descend,
But those that love thee, brighter Stars attend !
The Sun himself less glorious far than they,
The Sun, when mounted on the blazing Noon of
Day.

C.

Gideon's Expostulation. The Miracle of the Fleece.

Forgetful *Israel* soon agen offends,
And soon their angry God his Judgments
sends :

O're all the Land wild *Midian*'s Offspring pours,
An Epidemic Plague, like Locusts, all devours :
To Caves and Dens th' affrighted *Hebrews* run,
Entomb themselves alive their Death to shun :
Nor long unmov'd the Father at their Cries,
At his Command an Angel cleaves the Skies ;
Beneath a spatioust Oak at *Ophrah* stays,
And to the thoughtful *Gideon* thus he says :
--- Brave Man ! secure of Fate, and Aid divine !
No Danger canst thou fear, for God is thine.

He thus--- If God be ours, as once we thought,
 Where are those Wonders he in Egypt wrought ?
 Are all our *Moses's*, all our *Joshua's* gone,
 Our *Othniel's*, and our *Ehud's* ? Are there none
 To Heir their Virtues, that we still must bear
 The Heathens Yoke, and of Relief despair ?
 ---Yes--- one there is, says God, and thou art he :
 Go then, in this thy Might, thy Country free !
 With Reformation he the Wars begins,
 He knew their strongest Foes were *Israel's* Sins :
Baal's helpless Altar to the Ground he throws,
 And fells the Grove which near his Altar grows :
 Inspir'd, the Trumpet takes, and blew a Blast,
 Which first thro' *Ophrah's* narrow Confines pass'd :
 It pass'd thro' *Abiezer's* utmost bound ;
 Glad *Israel* hears, and gathers to the Sound :
 From double-trib'd *Manasseh* thousands run,
 From distant *Asher*, and from *Zebulun*.
 When *Gideon* thus did *Israel's* God address ,
 And humbly asks an Omen of Success.

If one so mean thy People must defend,
 O let the Dew on my sole Fleece descend !
 'Tis done--- the Grass and Floor around are dry ;
 Agen the Hero, Heav'n presumes to try :
 Upon his Fleece no drop of moisture found,
 While Sheets of Silver Dew spread all the ambient
 Ground.

C.

JUDGES, Chap. VI. Ver. 36. to the
End.

183



Ver. 36. Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,

37. Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor: and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.

38. And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl-ful of water.

Cl.

Midian discomfited.

Gideon reviews his Host on Harad's Plain,
 Too num'rous yet the Victory to gain :
 Three Myriads who at first the Hero joyn'd
 Melt off, Three hundred only left behind :
 By these, said God, too few their Strength to boast,
 Will I discomfit Midian's num'rous Host :
 This Night go down, in Moreh's Vale they lie,
 And welcom Omens meet of Victory !
 He goes, his faithful Phurah by his side,
 They find their careless Army scatter'd wide ;
 They hear a Soldier no vain Dream relate
 Of Israel's Conquest, and of Midian's Fate :
 From thence return'd secure of wish'd Success,
 The joyful News by Looks and Words exp'res.
 Gideon his Army, (scarce an Army) heads,
 And not to Battel, but to Conquest leads : (Word
 Aroand the slumb'ring Camps they shout ; The
 Was Gideon's and Jehovah's vengeful Sword !
 Horror and Guilt the Paynim Host affright,
 Dread sounds their Ears, their Eyes a ghastly Light :
 They ran, they cry'd, they fled ; their Swords }
 they drew,
 And each did in his Fellow's Blood imbrew ; }
 Manasseh, Asher, Nepthali pursue :
 Fierce Ephraim seiz'd the Foords of Jordan's Flood,
 And dy'd his Streams with Midianitish Blood :
 Oreb and Zeeb in their Flight they meet,
 Their bleeding Heads they bring, and cast at Gi-
 deon's Feet.

C.I.

JUDGES, Chap. VII. Ver. 5. to the End.

185



Ver. 5, 6. ---The Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; and the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men.

7. And the Lord said, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand.

22, 23. ---The Lord set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all his host, and the host fled: and the men of Israel pursued the Midianites.

CII.

CII.

JUDGES, Chap. IX.

Abimelech made King, and Shechem
destroy'd.

UNworthy to supply Great Gideon's Place,
Abimelech arose of spurious Race :
Without Remorse his seventy Brethren slain,
He thought a Crown he still did cheaply gain :
To *Shechem* he his ill-got Empire ows,
Ally'd by Birth, yet they his secret Foes :
In narrow Passes they an Ambush lay,
And hope *Abimelech* himself their Prey ;
Their plenteous Vintage home, well-warm'd they
bring,
And by their Idol-Gods they curse their Idol-King :
Nor this cou'd Gideon's *Blood*, tho' base endure ;
To crush his Rebels, and his Friends secure
He with a potent Army takes the Field,
To whose superior Force the double Traytors
yield :
The Victor to the City them pursues,
Th' unwieldy Gates are clos'd, the War renewes :
The wrathful King, impetuous, presses on,
Their ill-defended Gates and Walls are gone :
The Foe breaks in like an impetuous Flood,
Which tops the Banks that long its Course with-
stood,
The City's sow'd with Salt, and moisten'd with
their Blood.

One Tow'r alone impregnable remain'd,
And Treaty they alike and Force disdain'd :
They trust their God, the Hold was nam'd from
Baal,

But more they trust their firm and lofty Wall :
The Victor thinks the rest in vain was won,
Till Art compleats what Valour had begun :
Above the Town an hoary Mountain stood,
Whose venerable Head was crown'd with Wood :
The Firs and Pines thick Branches thence they rend,
And to the Tow'r, a moving Grove descend :
These to the Gates apply'd th' Assailants fire,
In vain within they from the Gates retire :
At once their dismal Shrieks ascend the Skies,
Their dying, and their Fun'ral Flames arise,
Never had *Baal* before so large a Sacrifice.

{

CIII.

Abimelech slain by a Woman.

Virtue alone can deathless Laurels boast ;
She gains the Day when Life itself is lost :
What with'ring Joys deceitful Conquest yields,
From Cities sack'd, and from triumphant Fields !
How soon the giddy Globe of Fortune turns,
The Captive smiles, th' insulting Victor mourns !
This, Great *Abimelech* ! from thee we learn,
(And future Warriors may their Fate discern :)
Now happy, if thou bear thy Ensign's back,
Nor Thebez Walls, with Stars averse, attack :

Fate

Fate draws thee on, and beckons from afar,
 And Death, disguis'd like Glory, leads to War :
 The Town is storm'd, the weak Defendants fled,
 But in the Citadel again make Head ;
 Arm'd with Despair a brave Resistance make ;
 Again their well-known Fire th' Assailants take ;
 Tho' lately try'd, of wish'd Success it fails ;
 One Stratagem but rarely twice prevails :
 Greedy of Fame, impatient of Delay,
 To his warm Troops the Gen'ral leads the way ;
 Whom, at the Gates, to his despairing Foes,
 His lofty Plume and glitt'ring Arms disclose :
 --- 'Tis done, and from a Mill-stone's deadly weight,
 A Woman, a weak Woman sends his Fate :
 He feels the Stroke the Seat of Life confound,
 His Helmet crush'd, his Head a single Wound ; }
 Groaning he falls, reluctant strikes the Ground : }
 But his strong Heart still rises with Disdain,
 " Can Gideon's Son by Female Hands be slain ?
 " Let some kind Sword the Stroke of Mercy lend,
 " If near me either Enemy or Friend !
 His faithful Squire, who oft in Battel try'd,
 Had ne're unguarded left his Master's side,
 This last kind cruel Office not deny'd : }
 Soon as the Sword its fatal Passage found,
 He rises to the Point, and meets the welcom
 Wound.

CIII.

JUDGES, Chap. IX. Ver. 50. to 55.

189



Ver. 51. There was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut it to them, and gat them up to the top of the tower.

53. And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his head.

54. Then he called hastily unto the young man his armour-bearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died.

CIV.

CIV.

JUDGES, Chap. X. Ver. 17, 18.

Chap. XI. to 29.

Jephthah chosen Captain by the Gileadites.

AMNON's incestuous Offspring now prevail,
From Rabbah's Tow'rs they Gibeah's Walls
assail :

At Mizpel's neighb'ring Hills the Tribes unite,
Pressing Memorials their Distress recite,
And valiant Jephthah to their Aid invite.

From foreign Lands their loud Complaints he hears,
And speeds away to dissipate their Fears ;
Their high Estates in full Convention joyn'd,
To him the vacant Sovereign Pow'r assign'd :
He knew 'twas an unthankful Work to save,
He knew the Wealthy never lov'd the Brave ;
And, Ammon beat, might civilly desire,
He'd ease the Nation, and to Tob retire.

Revolving deep he poiz'd the Crown, before
His thoughtful Brows that thorny Trifle wore ;
For publick Good at length accepts the Weight,
For others Freedom he a Slave of State.

In their new Head secure they promise fair,
And to their rightful Saviour Homage swear,
And Jephthah does for their Defence prepare :
By Treaty first does friendly Terms propound,
But ne're was Ammon yet by Treaty bound ;
For where no Faith is, how shou'd Truth be
found ?

And

And now the sacred Sp'rit invades his Breast,
 And all the God his mighty Soul possest :
 Like Lightning thro' the Clouds he darts away,
 And only wou'd a while at *Mizpeh* stay,
 The Gen'ral thought it no Disgrace to pray.
 New Strength receiv'd, secure of Conquests, goes
 At once to find, engage and rout his Foes.

Go on, Great Prince ! may Glory and Renown
 Attend thy Banner, and thy Temple crown !
 Thy conqu'ring Sword insulting *Ammon's* Red,
 Their *Chemosh* forc'd to yield to *Israel's* God !
 --- " But, ah ! in vain thy Brows with Laurel
 " crown'd,
 " For Fate and gloomy Death encompass thee a-
 " round.

CV.

Ammon discomfited. Jephtha's Vow.

Fierce *Ammon's* num'rous Van appears in sight,
 Glad *Israel* rose and shouted for the Fight :
 Between both Armies valiant *Jephthah* ran,
 His Spear to Heav'n he rais'd, and thus began ;

" So may my Arms the God of Battles bless,
 " And grant his own lov'd *Israel* wish'd Success ;
 " As when from War with Conquest I return,
 " What e're I meet, a Sacrifice shall burn.

The spacious Plain now grows a narrow Line,
 The lost Forlorns engage, the Battles joyn :
Heaps

Heaps upon Heaps accursed *Ammon's* slain,
 But fresh Reserves the tott'ring Fight sustain :
 Till *Zephtha's* Guards, their General at their Head,
 Charg'd their unwieldy Gross, which bent and fled :
 Their Main dispers'd, the Wings no longer stood,
 The rest was Carnage all, a Field of Blood.

But, ah ! how short are wretched Mortals Joys !
 This Moment gives 'em, and the next destroys :
 How dear must what he wins, brave *Zephtha* cost ?
 How oft he'll rather wish his Life he had lost ?
 Swift Fame did his desir'd Return prevent,
 And with her Silver Trump before him went :
 An only Daughter Heav'n the Hero lent,
 A lov'd, an only Child, as chaste as fair,
 She did her Father's Soul and Virtues share :
 Her Country's Love and Duty made her fly
 To Joy him of his mournful Victory :
 ---He saw the Maid, and like a Statue stood,
 Pale was his alter'd Face, congeal'd his Blood :
 " ---My Daughter ! ---longer mine, alas ! no more !
 " Thy cruel Duty we must both deplore :
 " Th' irrevocable Word to God is past,
 " Thou now art his, this Day must be thy last !
 Thus he ; unmov'd and calm her Doom she hears,
 Her charming Eyes alone are free from Tears :
 When *Israel's* safe, her Death she scorns to grieve,
 And only asks, submiss, a short Reprieve :
 Sadly he grants, two wexing Moons she stay'd,
 Then his hard Vow's fulfill'd on the devoted Maid.

CV.

JUDGES, Chap. XI. from Ver. 30.
to Ver. 39.



v. 32. Jephtha pass'd over to fight against the children of Ammon, and the Lord delivered them into his hands.

34. And when he came to his house, behold his daughter came out to meet him.

35. And when he saw her, he rent his clothes, and said, alas, my daughter! for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back.

CVI.

An Angel appears to Manoah and his Wife, and promises them a Son.

ISRAEL again by Sin themselves debase,
Enslav'd to faithless Capthor's fore-skin'd Race:
To Zorah's Fields a heav'nly Watcher came,
(His dazzling Robes laid by, and Wings of Flame;) Where liv'd a happy Pair with Plenty bless'd,
And only want a Son to crown the rest.
The Angel did the pleasing Tidings bear,
And to the Wife fore-told a joyful Heir:
A Nazarite of God; the tempting Wine,
To him in vain thro' Crystal Walls shou'd shine:
No Razor must his sacred Locks profane,
His Hands must loose his injur'd Nation's Chain.
She hastens home to bring her Lord the News,
So great, he did almost his Faith refuse:
Agen the wondrous Messenger appears,
And all confirm'd attentive Manoah hears;
Who on the Rock an Holocaust prepares
To Israel's God, and joyns his fervent Pray'rs:
The Angel his celestial Robe resumes,
His Sun-like Face, and gay Cherubic Plumes:
Behold his alter'd God-like Presence shine,
His large extended Form confess'd Divine!
High on a fiery Column's wondrous Car,
To Heav'n he mounts, swift as a shooting Star:
Prostrate on Earth the trembling Pair are laid,
When Manoah silence broke, and thus he said:

This

CVI.

JUDGES, Chap. XIII. Ver. 2. to 23.

195



Ver. 19. Manoah took a kid, with a meat-offering, and offered it upon a rock to the Lord.

20. And when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar: and Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.

21. (But the angel of the Lord did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife, &c.)

22. And Manoah said to his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.

23. But his wife said unto him, If the Lord, &c.

This dreadful Scene we shall not long survive,
For who can see the Face of God and live?
With fairer Hopes his Consort thus rejoyn'd,
If God displeas'd our speedy Deaths design'd;
Why shou'd the Angel with such Care advise,
And why shou'd Heav'n accept our Sacrifice?

Her, no vain Omens found their wish'd Event,
For e're ten waning Moons their Orbs had spent,
The Angel's Words perform'd wondrous Heir
is sent.

CVII.

Samson slays a Lion, &c.

YOUNG Samson grew, and Heav'n the Hero
 bles'd,
And soon the sacred Spirit invades his Breast;
Near Eftaol and Zorah's fruitful Plain,
His lab'ring Breast cou'd scarce the God sustain.
Prompted to mighty Deeds the more than Man,
Afflicted Israel's Freedom thus began.

A fair Philistine Maid at Timnah spy'd,
He wish'd the charming Infidel his Pride,
So Heav'n itself directs him, which fore-knows,
He'll hence Occasion gain against his Foes:
His Parents, ignorant of Fates intent,
Unwillingly to Timnah with him went:
The aged Couple thro' the Vineyards walk,
And of their Son's unhappy Choice they talk;
Samson behind; when from the secret Shades
A Lion ramps, and him unarm'd invades:

Nor

CVII.

J U D G E S , Chap. XIV. to Ver. 8.

197



Ver. 5. Samson went down, and his father and mother to Timnah, and came to the vineyards of Timnah: and behold a young lion roared against him.

6. And the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

7. And he went down and talked with the woman, and she pleased Samson well.

8. And after a time, he returned to her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, &c.

Nor Sword nor Spear th' undaunted Champion
needs,

The sacred Spirit, earnest of mightier Deeds,
Seizes him all ; the rugged Foe he joyn'd,
Crush'd his broad Breast, and his strong Neck he
twin'd :

Onward he walks, the careful Pair o'retakes,
But of his great Exploit no mention makes :
The lovely *Timmite* saw, who charm'd him more,
Than when her Eyes had seiz'd his Heart before :
Scarce cou'd his Parents longer disapprove
His Passion, where they saw such Cause of Love :
Their Wealth, his Merits, cou'd not be deny'd,
Nor long his Faith and Constancy were try'd,
He soon returns with Joy to wed his beauteous
Bride.

CVIII.

JUDGES, Chap. XIV. Ver. 7.
to the End.

Samson's Riddle.

AS thro' the Vineyards Samson takes his way,
Near where the Lions putrid Carcass lay ;
He hears surpriz'd, from thence a murm'ring Sound,
He sees live Honey flowing on the Ground :
The dropping Combs he from their Mansion tears,
Walks eating on, and with his Parents shares :

With

With all the Joy and Pomp that fits their State,
At Timnah they his Nuptials celebrate :
Th' ill meaning Politician Lords combine,
T' entrap their gen'rous Guest, their base Design :
To mark his Actions they, in Friends disguise,
His festal Table crowd with thirty Spies :
Nor had his wond'rous Birth escap'd their Ears,
Nor ever yet were Tyrants void of Fears :
Open and brave young Sampson all receives,
As he no ill designs, no ill believes :
At length the Feast he crowns with gen'rous Wine,
From Gaza's and Sarepta's noble Vine ;
But with the crystal Nymph his Thirst allays,
Nor needs the fuming Grape his Spirits to raise :
E're from the Board the chearful Guests arose,
This Riddle Sampson did to all propose ;
" The Eater did on others Meat bestow,
" And from the strong did wond'rous Sweetnes

" flow :

If they the knotty Riddle cou'd explain,
Each for his share shou'd a rich Vestment gain.

They turn'd it off, and try'd, but try'd in vain :
At length they with his facil Spouse confer,
She wrung it from her Lord, and they from her :
Enrag'd he heard it solv'd, her Treason knew,
And Thirty of th' abhor'd Philistians slew :
Near Ashkalon's proud Walls their Spoils he takes,
And to their faithless Friends th' ill-omen'd Present makes.

CIX.

Samson's Foxes. He kills a Thousand Men with the Jaw-bone of an Ass.

Quarrels of Lovers seldom long endure,
And Time's a Leach that deepest Wounds
can cure :

All Breaches he, but that of Faith can bind ;
No Salve, no Herbs, no Charms for this can find,
If falsely heal'd, he leaves the pois'nous Head be- }
hind.

Samson, appeas'd, does with a Kid prepare,
Agen to see his false Philistine Fair ;
Now his no more, another's Wife she's made,
And to his treach'rous Friend with Ease betray'd :
Nor this Great Samson unreveng'd cou'd bear,
Philistia, tremble ! you, th' Aggressors were !
Foxes and Fire-brands thro' their Harvest turn'd,
Their Shocks at once, and standing Corn he burn'd.
(To Mimic Rome the late Tradition came,
Their shouting Cirque each Year beheld the same.)
The Cause around their wasted Country known,
Their Rage is on the perjur'd Timnite shown :
To vengeful Flames they the fair Trait'ress doom,
And her, and all her Father's House consume.

And now to Etham's Rock the Danite went,
The Lordly Philistines their Army sent :
And from their slavish Vassals him demand,
Of Judah's Sons a base inglorious Band
Unto their Camps the willing Captive bear,
At whose approach with Shouts they rend the Air.

The

The Hero hears, his fiery Virtue wakes,
And from his Hands the Cords like Threads he }
shakes,

An Asses Jaw his boney Sword he takes : }
Behold him dealing dôle amongst his Foes !
Terror before, behind him Slaughter goes,
From Heaps to Heaps of Carcasses they stride, }
Which Streams of warm and reeking Blood }
divide,

And haughty Death sits crown'd upon the crimson Tide. }

JUDGES, Chap. XV. from Ver. 3.
to Ver. 15.

Ver. 4. Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took fire-brands, and turned tail to tail, and put a fire-brand in the midst between two tails.

5. And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shock and also the standing-corn, with the vineyards and olives.

15. And he found a new jaw-bone of an ass, and put forth his hand and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

CX.

Delilah betrays Samson.

HOW vainly Men their Strength and Conduct boast ?

By Female Wiles, how often trapp'd and lost ?

---We rave, but still they wind us back again,
In Destinies or Follies endless Chain :

But newly scap'd the beauteous Timnite's snare,
Nor yet cou'd *Samson* of her Sex beware :

He saw in *Sorek*'s pleasant Vale retir'd,
False *Delilah*, he saw her and admir'd :

In lazy Luxury his Hours he past,

His matchless Might, and useless Life ran wast :

Philistia heard with false mistaken Joy,

And rouz'd that Virtue must themselves destroy :

Happy for *them* if still he there had stay'd !

To worse than *Delilah* he ne're cou'd be betray'd.

Yet her they bring vast Sums of tempting Gold,

What Kings, what Senates have for less been sold ?

'Twas *hers*, if she his Counsels wou'd betray,

And shew wherein his Strength and *Israel*'s lay :

Long he eludes her Arts, tho' hourly press'd,

And lock'd the fatal Secret in his Breast :

She frowns, she smiles, she all the Woman tries,

In vain, he still evades, or still denies :

The specious *Syren* baits his passive Ears,

Nor want soft sighs, or well-commanded Tears :

" Was't this, was't this, false Man ! you did design,

" When at my Feet you yow'd your Heart was

" mine ?

" How

CX.

JUDGES, Chap. XVI. Ver. 4. to 20.

203



Ver. 19. Delilah made him sleep upon her knees, and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head, and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

20. And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake my self. And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him.

" How

" How easie to my Ruin I believe ?
 " How soon the Viper to my Breast receiv'd ?
 " May every Maid your faithless Nation shun,
 " And learn by me, forsaken, scorn'd, undone !
 --- He cou'd no more, his stubborn Heart gave way ;
 Doubly betray'd, he does himself betray :
 Like easie Man the fatal Secret tells,
 Which like true Woman *Delilah* reveals :
 Robb'd of his sacred Locks, amidst his Foes
 Th' insulting Traitors did her Lord expose :
 In vain he rouz'd, in vain his Limbs he shakes,
 And self-forsaken him his God forsakes :
 Vanquish'd with Ease, a Captive, scorn'd and
 blind,
 T' inglorious Pains, a publick Drudge confin'd,
 Shorn of his boasted Strength, and yet compell'd
 to grind.

CXI.

Samson's Death.

Happy Affliction, by whose welcom Rod
 We learn at once to know ourselves, and
 God !

Samson by this the truest Freedom gains,
 Smiles in his Dungeon, and enjoys his Chains ;
 And his purg'd Soul's endu'd with inward Light,
 Which more than pays his Loss of sensual sight :
 His haughty Lords less free than him they bind,
 By their own Pride and Vice enslav'd and blind ;

CXI.

JUDGES, Chap. XVI. from Ver. 23.
to Ver. 30.

205



Ver. 23. Then the lords of the Philistines gathered themselves together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, &c.

29. Samson took hold of the two middle pillars, upon which the house stood, &c.

30. And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines: and he bowed himself with all his might, and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein: so the dead which he slew at his death, were more than they which he slew in his life.

Who

Who now a joyful Feast around proclaim,
 To spread their mighty Fishes glorious Name ;
 Their two-form'd God, who to *Philistia* gave
Samson, their once dread Foe, but now their Slave :
 The Feast and Noon grew high, for *him* they send,
 And at his sight with Shouts the Heavens they
 rend :

His gifted Strength their Scorn, which late their
 Dread,

Thro' all their Streets in shameful Triumph led :
 Their spacious Theatre was crowded round,
 And with the Flow'r of wealthy *Gaza* crown'd :
 The vaulted Roof two massy Columns bear,
Samson, as tir'd, sues to repose him there ;
 Betwixt whose Bases by his Leader plac'd,
 Straining his utmost nervous Force, he bends,
 The Pillars from their firm Foundations rends,
 With burst of Thunder strait the Roof descends,
 Crushing at once the shrieking Crowd beneath,
 At once confounded in one Grave and Death :
Samson among the rest contented fell,
 And smiles to think his Eyes reveng'd so well.

Happy the Man who thus his Fame regains,
 And by so fair a Death, can loose his Country's
 Chains !

CXII.

JUDGES, Chap. XVII. Ver. 7. to
Chap. XX. Ver. 46.

The War with Benjamin.

Unbounded Rule! How num'rous is thy store,
Of mortal Plagues? but Anarchies are more :
No Law, no Faith, no Wrongs in her redress'd
The Swords blind Chance of Right and Just }
the Test,

And every Man's a *Lewis* to the rest.
Each strolling *Levite* there a Priest will be,
Each House must have its diff'rent Deity :
Nor those secure, for *Micah's* Art and Cost,
His wooden Priest, and golden Gods are lost :
Murder and Rape avow'd, the Tribes engage
In civil Fury, and intestine Rage :
At *Mizpeh* met, they *Gibeah's* Walls assail,
Where *Benjamin's* fierce Offspring twice prevail :
Stretch'd on their Mother Earth four Myriads lay,
Whence ev'n degen'rate *Israel* learns to pray :
To *Shiloh's* slighted Oracle repair,
Near *Bethel's* Fields the Ark of God was there,
And still just *Phineas* did the Ephod wear : }
They fast, they mourn, and from the Altar's Fire }
Their grateful Odors to the Clouds aspire,
Then of propitious Heav'n agen enquire ; }
Which bids 'em go, and Promise adds to bless,
Their righteous Arms resum'd with wish'd suc-cess.

To

To Gibeah's well-known Leaguer they return,
 Whose alter'd Fate her Children soon must mourn :
 Flush'd with success they sally from their Hold,
 And as an Herd of Wolves assault the Fold ;
 With hideous Shouts they Israel's Host attack,
 With well-dissembled Fear retreating back :
 But when to Gibeah's Walls their Ambush came,
 Defenceless now ; when thence th' ambitious Flame
 Glar'd in mid-Heav'n, the Host the Signal knew,
 And their amaz'd Pursuers soon pursue,
 Trod down with ease ; their Tribe at once they }
 slay :
 ---By Lewdness, thus and Discord, States decay,
 Thus many an Age's Growth is ruin'd in a Day.

CXIII.

RUTH, Chap. I. Ver. 1. to 21.

Elimelech's History. Ruth and Naomi.

WHile various Judges Israel's Scepter sway'd,
 Whose Sons were free by turns, by turns
 obey'd ;
 A good old Sire, Elimelech his Name,
 To Moab from his native Bethl'hem came :
 His Wife, and two fair Sons did with him bear,
 By Famine forc'd to seek a shelter there :
 Nor long he stays before to Fate he yields,
 His Bones inhum'd in Moab's friendly Fields :

The

The careful Mother for the Sons provides,
A pair of beauteous *Moabitish* Brides :
Nor long, alas ! possess'd they their desire,
Their Nuptial Torch might light their Fun'ral
Fire,

In Prime of YOUTH they childless both expire :
What Grief their Parent, what their Brides possess'd,
The Story says not, but with ease 'tis guess'd :
Nor long the widow'd exil'd Mother mourn'd,
E're she to bless'd *Judeas* Fields return'd ;
Part of the Journey both her Daughters went,
Orpah, at her desire, was soon content
To take her leave, and back her Footsteps bent :
The Younger, *Ruth*, (whose memorable Name,
In *Judah's* future Annals place shall claim,
While History remains, consign'd to Fame ;)
Her Mother's pressing Instances deny'd,
Nor wou'd while Life remain'd, forsake her side,
Nor ev'n shou'd envious Death their Dust divide :
In Weal or Wo her Fortunes pres'd to share,
One Law, one God for *Naomi* and her.
(A rare Example of a pious Mind !
Equal Success may all such Daughters find !)
Arriv'd at *Bethlehem*, all the City come
To admire their Neighbor, and to welcom home :
They scarce can credit what themselves they see,
And ask, if this the alter'd *Naomi* ?
O call me by that happy Name no more,
She said, which while my Fortunes smil'd, I bore !
Forgotten Joy long since is out of date,
And Bitter be my Name, as bitter is my Fate !

CXIV.

Ruth gleans in the Field of Boaz. He takes her to Wife.

TWas now the time when Sol the Lion leaves,
And the just Maid her glorious Guest receives :
The swarthy Reapers fill their Arms with Sheaves.
As chanc'd, or rather Heav'n dispos'd th' Event,
The virtuous Ruth with Naomi's Consent,
To glean the Fields of wealthy Boaz went ;
Who soon observ'd her more than common Grace,
Her modest Air, and lovely virtuous Face :
Not unconcern'd he asks the Damsel's Name,
To whom his Hind replys--- 'Tis she that came
With Naomi : His Master bids her stay,
Glean in his Fields, nor from the Reapers stray ;
She from his Servants no abuse shou'd meet :
Prostrate she falls at her great Kinsman's Feet :
Whence, Sir ! is this obliging Goodness shown,
She said, to me, a Stranger, and unknown ?
We are not ignorant, he pleas'd, rejoyn'd,
What widow'd Naomi from thee did find ;
How tender thou, how dutiful and kind :
Of Father and of Mother both, bereft,
Thy native Land, and Country-Idols left,
For Altars and for Hearths unknown before ;
And may that Pow'r whom Israel's Race adore,
Thee underneath his Wings from Danger guard,
And on thy Virtues show'r a full Reward !

CXIV.

RUTH, Chap. I. Ver. 22. Chap. II.
Ver. 2. to the End. Chap. IV. Ver. 13.

211



Chap. II. Ver. 8. Boaz said unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens.

9. Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap; and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men, that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

Chap. IV. Ver. 13. Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception; and she bare a son.

Now ebbing Day almost its course had run,
 And western Waves prepar'd to meet the Sun ;
 When the fair Gleaner to her Mother goes,
 And what had pass'd, and what she gain'd, she
 shows,
 And does her Benefactor's Name disclose :
 And when the Fields were of their Burthen
 shorn
 And with loud Shouts and rustic Songs, the Corn
 On groaning Wheels to crowded Garner's born ;
 Her wealthy Kinsman, so their Laws ordain'd,
 In childless *Chilions* room she for her Consort gain'd.

CXV.

I SAMUEL, Chap. I. Ver. II. Chap. II.
 Ver. I. to II.

*Elkanah and Hannah. Samuel born.
 Hannah's Song.*

JUST *Elkanah* of holy *Levi*'s Race,
 Whose Life did ne're his Character disgrace ;
 The pious *Hannah* chose his beautious Bride,
 But Heav'n to both their Vows a Son deny'd :
 To sacred *Shiloh* yearly they repair,
 To pay their Gifts and pure Oblations there :
 She griev'd, she wept, she pour'd her pious Pray'r
 Before the Oracle, nor pray'd in vain,
 A welcom Heir her ardent Vows obtain :
Samuel his Name-- from Heav'n she him implor'd,
 And to the Pow'r that gave, agen restor'd :

A Nazarite of God did him design,
 Estrang'd from fuming Bowls of tempting Wine :
 No Razor must his hallow'd Locks invade,
 Or the long Honours of his Hair degrade,
 And guilty of her Vows, her Vows she pay'd : {
 When wean'd to *Shiloh* brought and left him there,
 Entrusted to the Rev'rend *Eli's* care ;
 Then thus with well according Heart and Tongue,
 She God's high Praise in deathless Numbers sung.

' In God, my Saviour, O my Soul, rejoice !
 ' Awake my vocal Lyre ! awake my tuneful Voice !
 ' Thee, Holy ! Holy ! Holy ! Thee alone,
 ' Officious Angels serve, around thy Throne.

' Insult no more, ye hard of Heart and proud !
 ' Restrain your Tongues, nor talk so fierce and loud !
 ' For God's impartial Eye the World surveys,
 ' With equal Justice every Action weighs.
 ' The mighty Bows, which mighty Arms did wield,
 ' Unstring'd and broke are scatter'd round the Field.
 ' O God of Strength, by thee the weak are rais'd,
 ' The Hungry fill'd, the Rich and Proud debas'd :
 ' The barren Womb a num'rous Offspring fills,
 ' 'Tis he that makes alive, 'tis he that kills :
 ' 'Tis his alone, or Poor or Rich to make,
 ' He from the Dunghil does the *Lazars* take.
 ' O Scorn of human Pride ! with Princes seat,
 ' And stamp him honourable there, and great :
 ' Those Pillars of the World are his alone,
 ' They prop the Universe, and he supports their
 ' Throne.
 ' To gloomy Shades th' Unjust shall be confin'd,
 ' His Foes shall God's fierce Wrath to pieces grind :

- While from his angry Throne th' unerring Darts,
 With Vengeance wing'd, shall pierce their faith-
 less Hearts.
 O're all the World shall he extend his sway,
 And all the World his Great Messiah's Laws obey,

CXVI.

Eli's weak Government. A Prophet re-
 proves him.

OLD Eli now Great Aaron's Ephod wears,
 Scarce equal to his Honours and his Cares:
 Contempt alone his easie Goodness gains,
 While with too slack a Hand he holds the Reins.
 Two Sons he had, now happy had he none!
 Whose Crimes their Country's ruin, and their own.
 Those Sons of Belial wou'd not know the Lord,
 They made his Off'rings, by the Crowd abhor'd,
 Rapine and Lust for Deities ador'd:
 Yet when reprov'd by their indulgent Sire,
 Softly he touch'd the Wound which did require
 The deepest Search, the Lancet and the Fire.

Not so to him, a Man of God, who came,
 And thus from injur'd Heav'n did War proclaim.

Did I thy Father's House in Egypt chuse?
 Did I by them my Peoples Bondage loose?
 Did I for this the stronger Tribes refuse?
 And favour'd Aaron separate alone,
 To wear my Ephod and approach my Throne?

Nor

CXVI.

I SAMUEL, Chap. II. Ver. 12. to 33.

215



Ver. 27. There came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?

28. And did I chuse him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

29. Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice, and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation, and honourest thy sons above me, &c.

Nor this unpay'd--- with Sacrifices fed,
 He shar'd my Table and he eat my Bread :
 And will not these your greedy Wish suffice,
 That ye my Off'ring, and my Houle despise,
 And trample on my daily Sacrifice ? }
 I said, thy Father's House shou'd still be mine,
 'Tis you are chang'd, and from my Paths decline : }
 Jehovah ever was, and is the same,
 He honours those who honour his dread Name, }
 Whilst all who him despise, stand manifest of }
 Shame.

The Day, the dreadful Day approaches near,
 When from thy Shoulder I thy Arm will tear :
 Will wither all thy Houses Pride and Joy,
 And in their Flow'r of Life thy impious Sons destroy.

CXVII.

*The Lord calls Samuel, who prophesies the
Destruction of Eli's House.*

TWas Night, and all in silent Slumbers laid,
 The Lamp of God shone faintly thro' the
 Shade :

Old *Eli* his dim Eyes did newly close,
 Ev'n *Samuel* slept, indulging soft repose :
 Nor had the Lord to *Samuel* yet appear'd,
 But now a still small, awful Voice he heard,
 His Name repeating--- he to *Eli* ran,
 Who call'd him not, but bids him rest again !
 Thrice was the Voice repeated, thrice he rose,
 And thro' the solemn Shades to *Eli* goes ;

CXVII.

I SAMUEL, Chap. III. Ver. 5. to 18.



Ver. 11. The Lord said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it, shall tingle.

12. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house : when I begin, I will also make an end.

13. For I have told him, that I will judge his house for ever, for the iniquity which he knoweth : because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice, nor offering for ever, &c.

At

At length the aged Sire the Truth perceives,
 And his young Pupil new Instructions gives :
 It calls agen, the future Prophet fears,
 And thus, submiss--- " Speak, Lord ! thy Servant
 " hears !

To whom distinct the awful Voice proceeds,
 " Behold in *Israel* I will do such Deeds ;
 " As all who hear shall with amazement quail,
 " Their Ears shall tingle, and their Hearts shall fail.
 " Let *Eli*'s lost devoted House prepare,
 " For what my Servant did, inspir'd, declare ;
 " Theirs in the Show'r of Wrath the largest
 " share.

" For ever will I them, for ever leave,
 " And no Atonement for their Crimes receive :
 " Their Crimes he knows, regardless to restrain,
 " He bears my Image and my Sword in vain.

The Sun had spread the Hills with heav'nly
 Gold,

When *Samuel* did the sacred Gates unfold :
 The Judge adjures him, nothing to conceal,
 Who all the dreadful Message did reveal :
 He owns the Doom was just his Faults procur'd,
 And God was good, whate're his House endur'd.

May all who *Eli*'s Charge and Honours share
 His false Indulgence shun, as they'd his Fate
 beware !

CXVIII.

The Ark taken. Hophni and Phinehas slain. Eli's Death.

Unwilling to resume the servile Yoke,
Of Capthor's Sons, which valiant Samson
broke :

The Tribes of Israel arm without success,
For how shou'd God a sinful Nation bless ?
Baffl'd and beat, four thousand Warrior's slain,
Their Bones unbury'd lay on Aphek's Plain.
With stronger Forces they renew the War,
God's Ark they to the Camp from Shiloh bear :
But what avails his Ark when God's not there ?
Trembled the Plains, the hollow Mountains ring,
When to the Camp that sacred Pledge they bring ;
So loud a Shout the joyful Army gave,
Tho' neither *that* itself nor *them* cou'd save.
Their Enemy the Noise with wonder hear,
Which soon, th' Occasion known, is chang'd to
Fear :

Wo to our Nation--- thus alarm'd they cry'd,
Dangers like this, till now we never try'd :
Who, from these mighty Gods our Host shall save,
Which plung'd th' Egyptians underneath the Wave ?
Philistia ! now exert thy utmost might !
The Conquest gain, or fall in manful Fight !
They joyn, and long the Battel doubtful stood,
The Fields with Warrior's strew'd and dy'd in
Blood :

Israel at last gave way, the Foe pursu'd,
But round the Ark agen the Fight renew'd :
Hophni the fainting Troops, and *Phinehas* shear,
And twice, when broke, they rally'd in the Rear ;
(O ! how cou'd Guilt like theirs, so brave appear ?) }
And might have turn'd the Fortune of the Day,
Had not their Sins their Laurels snatch'd away.
A third Effort with feebler Force they make,
But can't their sacred injur'd Charge retake :
Close by the Ark, oppress'd with odds they fell,
Happy their Deaths had they but liv'd as well !
Three Myriads more to Fate compell'd to yield,
Whose Limbs extended on the moisten'd Field :
A Benjamite escapes, Fear lends him Wings,
At close of Day the News to *Shiloh* brings :
The City gave an universal Groan,
Old *Eli* hears the Noise, the Cause unknown ;
When thus the Messenger--- " The People fled,
" *Philistia* triumphs, both thy Sons are dead,
" And more than all--- the Ark is captive led.
He heard till then, till then he fill'd his Place,
But now the hasty Blood forsakes his Face :
Back to his Heart, thro' secret Channels flies,
Back from his Seat he falls, he backward falls,
and dies.

CXVIII.

I SAMUEL, Chap. IV. Ver. 10. to 19.

221



Ver. 17. The messenger said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

18. And it came to pass when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward, by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died, &c.

CXIX.

CXIX.

Ichabod's Birth. His Mother's Death.

THE shrieking Matrons with dishevel'd
Hair,
To th' empty Temple now in vain repair ;
And, *Phinehas* ! to thy widow'd Spouse relate
That mournful Day's Transactions, big with Fate.
Ah, how unfit so vast a Weight to bear,
Press'd with her tender Sexes greatest Care ;
By her lov'd Lord a pregnant Widow left,
Of Father, Brother, Husband, all bereft !
Yet more, the loss of more than all her Line,
The sacred Symbol of the Pow'r Divine :
The Ark of God won by th' insulting Foe ;
Twas this that gave the last, the greatest Blow.
Hence, immature, her Pangs the Matron seize,
And hasten, first to Labor, then to Ease :
Pressing for Life her Burthen longs to share
A larger World, and taste the lightsom Air :
Nor struggled long, for soon her thickning throes
A lovely Babe to ready Birth disclose :
In vain the Women his sad Mother clear,
A Son is born, nor had she more to fear :
Fix'd are her Eyes, and all her Actions show
A steady Grief, a solemn silent Wo :

Regard-

Regardless of herself, and all beside,
These only Words she strain'd before she dy'd.

" ---Yes, my unhappy Offspring! yes, I'll live
" One moment more, thy mournful Name to give:
" Be *Ichabod* thy Name, and in it wear
" Thy Country's Fate which thou so soon must
 " share:
" The Ark is gone--- our Glory is declin'd,
" And who so fond of Life to wish to stay behind?

She said, then to those Regions wings away,
Where weary Souls enjoy soft Rest, and endless
Day.

I SAMUEL, Chap.IV. from Ver. 19.
to the End.

Ver. 21. ---She named the child *Ichabod*, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: (because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father-in-law, and her husband,)

22. And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken,

CXX.

*The Ark and Dagon. The Philistines
plagu'd, the Ark return'd.*

NOW Palestina's conqu'ring Sons proclaim,
In festal Hymns their mighty Fishes name :
Their barb'rous Joy scarce louder Triumphs made,
When dreadful *Samson* to their Lords betray'd,
Tho' short are these as those ; for now they bear
To *Dagon*'s Dome the Ark, and leave it there :
With *Dagon* now and God the Cause is try'd,
And which will win, 'tis easie to decide :
The Priests their Idol leave, whom they before
Glutted with od'rous Streams, and holy Gore :
Nor sooner gilds the Sun the *Cretan* shore,
When to their daily Task th' Impostors rise,
And haste to pay their morning Sacrifice :
But found their Monster-God more monstrous
made,

Prostrate on Earth his helpless Trunk was laid,
As to the Ark he there his Homage paid.
His Hands and Head were sever'd from the rest,
His fishy Tail remain'd, and scaly Chest :
Nor this alone, their Idol thus subdu'd,
A shameful Plague his Worshippers pursu'd :
Affrighted *Ashdod* sends the Ark away,
Which next to *Gath*'s proud City they convey,
Till *Gath*'s great City plagu'd as much as they.
To *Ekron* last, but *Ekron* cries in vain,
Nor wou'd their sure Destruction entertain :

They

CXX.

I SAMUEL, Chap. V. Ver. 3, 4.

225



Ver. 3. When they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth, before the ark of the Lord : and they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.

4. And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground, before the ark of the Lord : and the head of Dagon, and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold, only the stump of Dagon was left to him.

Q

They

They shut their Gates, and from the Walls they
cry,

The winged Plague did o're the Rampires fly,
The Streets with Corpses fill'd, and thousands die:
Thro' every House the dire Contagion spread,
The tortur'd Living envy ev'n the Dead.
The Lords of their five Satrapies advise,
With those who were, or who were counted
wise,

How to appease the anger of the Skies:
Resolv'd, the Ark with Presents home they sent,
To glad Beshemesh that, and they to Ekron went.

CXXI.

I SAMUEL, Chap. VII.

The Philistines discomfited. Ebenezer.

With Tears unfeign'd afflicted Israel mourn,
To God at length, and to themselves re-
turn:

Their former Sins and Follies now lament,
Obsequious to the Prophet's call, repent.
For Samuel with restless Eloquence,
Soft piercing Words, and more than manly Sense,
Moulds 'em to Good, recalls 'em when they stray,
And guides direct in Virtues glorious way.
If they return to God with Hearts sincere,
If they to keep his Laws, their Mind prepare;

If *Ashlaroth* and *Baalim* they forsake,
 And him alone their Rock and Saviour make ;
 He soon wou'd break *Philistia's* servile Bands,
 And save 'em from th' insulting Heathens Hands.
 With Hearts contrite they hear, with ready Will,
 Exact Obedience promise and fulfil :
 For all the Tribes to *Mizpeh Samuel* sent,
 They fast, they pray, their num'rous Crimes la-
 ment :

Philistia's Pow'r their Lords against them raise,
 Tremble the People, and the Prophet prays :
 A bleating Lamb upon the Altar lies,
 And Heav'n accepts a spotless Sacrifice :
 Th' uncircumcis'd the sacred Host assail,
 Nor fear but *Dagon* will again prevail :
 O harden'd to your Fate, who still go on,
 Their Strength is now return'd, and yours is gone !
 Look up, and see your Death in yonder Sky !
 The ruddy Bolts are in the Act to fly :
 ---'Tis pass'd, they Fire and Thunder on their
 Head,
 Behold the Field with groveling Warriors spred,
 The living Shelter seek beneath the Dead !
Israel no more their Strength or Numbers fear,
 But sallying forth attack them in the Rear :
 Their double Ruin they in vain wou'd shun,
 The *Hebrews* perfect what just Heav'n begun.

The Fragment of a Rock the Prophet takes,
 And thence a rugged antique Pillar makes ;
 Which in the Field of Battel rear'd, conveys
 The memorable Fact to long succeeding Days.

CXXII.

Saul seeking his Father's Asses, is anointed King by Samuel.

FROM small Events what mighty things proceed ?

Our Fates, tho' not our Crimes, by Heav'n decreed.
 To Reach and Fore-sight, vainly we pretend,
 How unproportion'd oft the Means and End?
 On no high Deed, no strange Adventure bound,
 Monsters to quell, or Tyrants to confound ;
 The Son of *Kish*, so did wise Heav'n dispose,
 To seek his Father's Asses humbly goes ;
 But onward drawn by a strong secret Chain,
 Fulfils his Fate and does the Kingdom gain :
 One faithful Servant joyns him in the Quest,
 Who still a ready Will to please exprest :
 Thro' *Ephraim*'s woody Mount they search in vain,
 Thro' *Shalim*'s Coast, and rich *Shalisha*'s Plain ;
 Thro' *Benjamin*'s yet thinly peopled Ground,
 Whose Tribe still halted of so deep a Wound :
 Now *Zophim*'s hanging Rocks before 'em spy,
 And pleasant *Ramah* tow'ring in the Sky.
 The Master here proposes to return,
 Lest for their Loss his careful Father mourn :
 Pious and Wise the Servants thus reply'd,
 There's one Expedient yet remains untry'd :

CXXII.

I SAMUEL, Chap. IX. from Ver. 3. to
the End. Chap. X. Ver. 1. to Ver. 17.

229



Chap. IX. Ver. 3: *The asses of Kish, Saul's father were lost; and Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee and arise, go seek the asses.*----

27. *And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.*

Chap. X. Ver. 1. *Then Samuel took a vial of oyl, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance? &c.*

A Man of God does in this City dwell,
Who pass'd, and present knows, and future things
can tell :

Thither let's turn aside, the Place is near,
He'll soon direct what Course is best to steer :
The motion pleas'd, with painful Steps they climb
The rocky Path, and reach the Hill sublime ;
Whose Cliff surmounted they a while respire,
And of the Seer himself, they for himself enquire :
Nor was their Journey, or its Cause unknown,
For God, before, had all to *Samuel* shown :
He knew that Day, that happy Hour shou'd bring
Israel's Desire, and fated future King :
Dismiss, said he, your Care, and rest you here :
For what you seek dismiss your groundless Fear.
Safe and return'd -- Be you my Guests to day,
To morrow you I'll send in Peace away.
The Strangers feasted, there that Night repose,
And early with the dawning Morn arose,
Then leave the Town, the Prophet with 'em goes :
Behold him on the wond'ring Hero, shed
A shov'r of mystic Oyl, and thus he said.

“ The Lord does thee with this high Honour
“ grace,

“ Appointed Captain o're his chosen Race :
“ Another Spirit shall soon thy Breast invade,
“ And mighty Signs shall thee to mighty Deeds
“ persuade.

CXXIII.

I SAMUEL, Chap. X. from Ver. 17. to
the End.

Saul's Election.

TO Mizpeh's Hills th' expecting Tribes
repair }
By Samuel call'd, to fix the grand Affair,
And thus the Rev'rend Sire accosts them there.

Thus saith the Lord-- I you from Egypt brought,
Against your Foes my self from Heav'n have fought:
By Miracles protected when oppress'd,
And now on ev'ry side have giv'n you rest :
But what returns ? Weary of Peace and me,
Your Tribes abjure divine Theocracy.
Enjoy your Wish, what e're th' Event it bring !
Approach, and Heav'n will soon declare your King,
They came, the great decisive Lot is cast,
The stronger and more num'rous Tribes it past,
And on exhausted Benjamin did fall ;
“ Forth leapt the House of Kish, and forth leapt
“ Saul :
Distinct above the vulgar Crowd he stood,
Like some fair Pine the Monarch of the Wood.

Black as the Raven's glossy Plumes his Hair,
Which fell adown his Shoulders with loose Care :
A modest Fire his Sun-bright Eyes did grace,
Diffusing a calm Lustre round his Face :
His well-knit Nerves did Strength and Vigour
show,

Equal to Toils a Prince must undergo :
Erect his Gate, majestic was his Meen,
And when his God-like Form by all was seen,
A gen'ral Shout that rends the Heav'ns they give,
God save the King ! Let him for ever live !
The sacred Contract next the Prince is shown,
The Peoples surest Safeguard and his own.

God and the fickle Crowd at first agree,
He pleas'd 'em with their lov'd Variety ;
But soon the Sons of *Belial* weary grown,
Their Tribute murmur ring paid, or paid him
none ;

What they had rais'd, Why might they not de-
throne ?

God's Choice a fatal Disappointment brings,
Their Worth o'relook'd, they'd fain have all been
Kings.

Silent he stood, their factious Rage despis'd,
Which Time and ripening Fate without his Aim,
chastis'd.

CXXIV.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XI. from Ver. 1.
to Ver. 13.

The War with Nahash.

NOR long the Royal Virtue slumb'ring lay,
But did itself from secret Shades display:
Fierce *Nahash*, like a Torrent, pours along,
By num'rous Nations formidably strong ;
From *Rabbah's* Gates to *Fabesh* Walls o'reflows,
But *Fabesh* Walls too weak his Strength t' op-
pose : }
A cruel Tribute by the Victor laid,
Must for inglorious Life be meanly paid ;
They their right Hands, and dearer Eyes must
give, }
Sev'n Days allow'd 'em for a short Reprieve,
To try if Earth or Heav'n wou'd them relieve. }
Wo to the vanquish'd-- who a Message sent
To *Saul*, But how cou'd *Saul* their Fate prevent ?
Th' unsettled King was weak, the Factions
strong, }
And wou'd in fruitless Counsels time prolong,

Till Action pass'd and their short Term ex-
pir'd :

The Monarch in his rustic Court retir'd,
Their Message hears, with gen'rous Anger fir'd.
Like Him whom God did his Vicegerent chuse,
He speaks, and acts, and all the King indres :
(Thus from their Fields did the Great *Fabii* come,
To fix the Fate of all the World and *Rome*.)
His Royal Mandate sent, the Tribes prepare,
With strong united Force to meet the War ;
And e're the Mornings purple dress'd the Skies,
Proud *Ammon*'s num'rōus careless Host surprize ;
Diffus'd abroad, bury'd in Sleep and Wine ;
But Sleep must now his softer sway resign
To his Twin-Brother Death--- How wide its
reign ?

How high its Throne on heaps of Subjects slain ?

O why shou'd Man his Maker's Work deface,
Murder his Kind, destroy his God-like Race ?
Why shou'd he lend his cruel Sword to Fate,
And mow the Flow'rs that have so short a Date ?
---But savage Beasts, and Men must be subdu'd ;
The Boar is justly thro' the Woods pursu'd,
And in his Blood the glitt'ring Spear embru'd.
For this of old High-Heav'n Commission gave,
To Hero's--- 'Tis a glorious Work to save ;

And smiling Mercy soon resumes the Throne,
When Justice has its awful Business done :
The Brave alone have Courage to forgive,
When Saul with Conquest crown'd he bids his Re-
bels live.

CXXV.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XI. Ver. 15.
Chap. XII.

The Kingdom confirm'd to Saul. Samuel appeals to the People for his Integrity.

AT Gilgal met, glad Israel's publick Voice
Confirms their own, and Heav'n's unchan-
ging Choice :

(--- How many Loyal Converts makes success !)
When Samuel thus -- Your Wish you now possess :
A King you ask'd with one united Cry,
Nor did I your concurring Votes deny :
Yet e're I to forgotten Shades repair,
And these gray Hairs, silver'd with Age and
Care,

To Ramah's Fields, or to the Grave I bear ;

To

To you, my once lov'd Charge, I here appeal,
 From God, and God's anointed nought conceal!
 What ill you know, of *Samuel*, now reveal?
 Whose Ox or Ass I've wrongfully possess'd,
 If ever I for Bribes did Justice wrest,
 Any defrauded, any have oppress'd?
 If you with Truth and Justice can't complain,
 Why have you then cast off th' Almighty's Reign?
 Can you his Pow'r suspect, his Love distrust,
 His Truth arraign, Ingrateful! and Unjust!
 Look up, and see his wrathful Terrors nigh,
 His ruddy Vengeance gath'ring in the Sky!

He said, and gloomy Night the Air invades,
 The fork'y Lightnings cross the fearful Shades:
 Th' Almighty's angry Voice is heard from far,
 The rolling Thunder gives the sign of War:
 Huge Cataracts of Rain come pouring down,
 As they'd the Lab'lers Hopes, and promis'd Har-
 vest drown:

Agen he prays, and all agen is fair,
 Hush'd are the chiding Winds, serene the Air:
 Then thus goes on--- 'Tis not, you see, too late,
 Sincere Repentance may avert your Fate.
 With stiddy Piety your God adore,
 And vain and helpless Idols serve no more!
 Forsake not him, nor will he you forsake,
 Whom he his own peculiar Choice did make:

For me, forbid it Heav'n I e're shou'd cease,
With fervent Vows to pray for *Israel's* Peace !
But still must plain ungrateful Truths declare,
My Country Love, but not its Vices spare ;
Which if still unreform'd, at length will bring
A Vengeance worthy Heav'n on you, and on your
King.

CXXVI.

*Jonathan falls on the Outguards of the
Philistines. Their Army routed.*

ENcamp'd at Michmas the Philistians lie,
Whose proud unnumber'd Fishes fill the Sky :
Saul, in far different State at Gibeah lay,
Each hour his heartless Army melt away,
Now scarce a Crowd, six hundred only stay
To guard their Prince, unarm'd and trembling
these,

But no such base unmanly Passions seize
Undaunted *Jonathan* ; his Squire he takes,
And from the Camp a bold Excursion makes,
To where secure th' uncircumcis'd remain'd,
And, *Israel* both, and *Israel's* God disdain'd :

Two craggy Rocks, Bozéz and Seneh nam'd,
 For this Event to after Ages fam'd
 Their Outguards held, a narrow Pass between,
 Cut thro' the stubborn Stone was scarcely seen:
 When from above the valiant Pair espy'd,
 The Captain of the Guard insulting cry'd :
 Come up, ye Hebrew Slaves, and quickly meet
 That Fate your Treasons merit, at our Feet !
 The Prince the welcom Omen understands
 With Pain and Joy ; upon their Knees and Hands
 They clamber up the Hill, nor sooner there,
 But their dread Message from high Heav'n de-
 clare :
 In Heaps they fell, mow'd by the Prince's Sword,
 And faithful Abdon glean'd behind his Lord :
 Those who escap'd, to their main Body fly,
 And tell 'em all the Hebrew Host was nigh :
 Scarce had they spoke, when swifter than the Wind,
 Behold the eager Victors press behind :
 They storm the Camp, where e're they reach,
 they kill,
 And all with Terror and Distraction fill :
 A panic Fear invades their Host from God,
 Trembled the conscious Earth on which they
 trode :
 Chariots, and Horse, and Foot confounded fly,
 And by Philistine Arms Philistians die :

This saw from Gibeak's Hills the feeble Guard,
They saw them melt, the thickning Tumult heard:
Swift as before they fled, the Foes pursue,
Fell on their scatter'd Rear, and thousands slew :
The Slaughter reach'd abhor'd Bethaven's Plain,
To Canaan's Gods *Philistia* prays in vain ;
Till Night did o're the Heavens her Wings display,
And sav'd the broken Reliques of the fatal Day.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XIII. Ver. 23.
Chap. XIV.

Chap. XIII. Ver. 3. *And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it : and Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear, &c.*

23. *And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.*

Chap. XIV. Ver. 1. ----*Jonathan said to his armour-bearer, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines garrison, that is on the other side, &c.*

12. *And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armour-bearer, and said, Come to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said to his armour-bearer, Come up after me ; for the Lord hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.*

13. *And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armour-bearer after him : and they fell before Jonathan, &c.*

CXXVII.

Saul wars with Amalek, spares Agag,
who is hew'd in pieces by Samuel.

YET one important Task for Saul remains,
To whom wise *Samuel* thus the Fates ex-
plains :

God, who did thee his Peoples Head appoint,
And by these Hands with holy Oyl anoint ;
Forgets not treacherous *Amalek's* Design,
When you from *Egypt* came, but says, Revenge
is mine.

Go then--- against th' accurs'd, renew the War !
Whatever breaths destroy, and nothing spare !

The Monarch hears, and with a numerous Host
Invades the *Amalekites* devoted Coast :
Dispirited they faint, they fly, they yield,
With Blood the Town's deform'd, with Blood the
Field.

In vain they yield, in vain for Mercy cry,
Their Doom is fix'd, the faithless Nation die.

Their

CXXVII.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XV. from Ver. 1.
to Ver. 34.

241



Chap. XV. Ver. 31. Samuel turned again after Saul, and Saul worshipped the Lord.

32. Then said Samuel, Bring you hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites: and Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

33. And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

Their King alone, *AGAG* the *GRE AT*, they
spare,

The goodliest Spoil, and Trophy of the War :

The flow'r of all the Flocks and Herds they save,

The Vile and Refuse to the Slaughter gave.

When *Saul* the Prophet met, and thus he said,

---At length have we th' Arrears of Vengeance
paid,

And have exactly Heav'ns commands obey'd :

From whence can then proceed, replies the Seer,

These bleating, and these bellowing Sounds I hear :

The Choice of all the Cattel, *Saul* replies,

Our pious Warriors spar'd for Sacrifice ;

Agag with these in golden Chains they bring,

To grace their Triumphs with a captive King.

When *Samuel* thus--- Does God Oblations need ?

Tho' Hecatombs shou'd on his Altars bleed,

From a rebellious Hand, he'd all despise ;

Obedience is the noblest Sacrifice.

'Tis in the Fates, thy Fate thou canst not shun,

Thy cruel Mercy has thy self undone.

Nor shall the sanguine Tyrant scape--- he dies ;

The guiltless Blood h' has shed, for Vengeance
cries.

He sends -- secure of Death proud *Agag* came,
The same his haughty Mien, his Eyes the same,
His fierce black Eyes shot round indignant
Flame:

Scarce seem'd to feel the Ground on which he
trod,

Erect and comely, as a fan'd God:

When thus the Seer--- since all thy Acts defame

A King's belov'd, and fear'd paternal Name;

In Blood thy Hands, in Blood defil'd thy Throne,

That Fate which others shar'd, be now thy own:

He says, and God's all-righteous Doom fulfils;

The Victim's Life before his Altar spills:

See his black Blood through num'rous Channels
flow,

And with a Groan his haughty Soul flies to the
Shades below.

CXXVIII.

Samuel anoints David.

TO Gibeah, Saul ill-pleas'd and discontent,
And Samuel to his native Ramah went;
Never, ah never now to see him more!
Yet his well-natur'd Tears his Fate deplore.
When God-- How long wilt thou for Saul lament?
Himself has fix'd his Doom, nor will repent.
To Ephrætan Jesse's Fields repair,
Thy Horn with Oyl replenish'd with thee bear,
My People I'll provide a Captain there,
Amongst his Sons; to blind the Tyrant's Eyes,
A free-neck'd Heifer take for Sacrifice.
Arriv'd, their Elders trembled at his sight;
He Jesse did with all his Sons invite.
Eliab, his eldest Hope the first appears,
A tall young Man, in Life's most vigorous Years:
When Samuel to himself-- It must be he,
And sighing said-- a second Saul I see:
But God corrects the Prophet's hasty Choice,
And thus reproves with inward secret Voice;
Gaze not, intemp'rate, on his manly Face,
His tow'ring Stature, and majestic Grace!
'Tis God alone his secret Soul can see,
Deform'd with Pride, unfit for Royalty.

CXXVIII.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XV. Ver. 34, 35.
Chap. XVI. to Ver. 13.

245



Chap. XVI. Ver. 11. Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and behold he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

12. And he sent, and brought him in: Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

13. Then Samuel took the horn of oyl, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren, &c.

The brave *Abinadab* did *Jesse* bring,
 Who, like his five fair Brothers, look'd a King;
 Yet these rejected--- much the Seer admires,
 If these were all his Sons, concern'd, requires :
 One more there is, the youngest, who remains,
 To feed and guard our Flocks on *Bethlehem's* Plains :
 With speed they send, the lovely Youth appears,
 What Sp'rit his Eyes, his Face what Beauty wears !
 A Light divine around his Temples shed,
 Not more the mystic Drops adorn'd his Head,
 Which now in a rich Circle round it shin'd ;
 So Heav'n commands, and strait his gen'rous Mind
 Still more exalted, calls to mighty Things,
 To punish and to save, Atchievements worthy Kings.

CXXIX.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XVII. to Ver. 37.

Goliah challenges the Host of Israel,
David accepts the Combat.

A Gain *Philistia's* Force together draws,
 To vindicate their *Dagon's* tott'ring Cause :
Goliah, they, their monstrous Champion chose,
 His hideous Form like some huge Mountain rose :
 His shaggy Locks like shady Pines, that grow,
 Loading the Mountain's side, and fright the Vale
 below : A

A Mine of Brass his mighty Limbs encas'd,
His knotty Spear like some fair Gally's Mast ;
A young tall Squire, tho' he a Dwarf appear,
When his proud Lord's enormous Bulk was near, }
Did swearing his bright Shield before him bear. }

---Such was *Goliath*, such his useless might,
With Terror round him cast, and wild affright, }
When challenging all *Israel* to the Fight. }

Trembled their Host when his vast Form appears,
And scarce his own remains secure from fears.

Young *David* only cou'd his Threats despise ;
On more than mortal Strength his Hope relies :
Demands the Combat at the Royal Tent ;
Saul prais'd his Valour, but he dreads th' Event :
When thus the wond'rous Youth---

“ As I my Father's Flocks at *Bethlehem* fed,
A Bear and Lion by fierce hunger led,
Ramp'd o're the Fold, and snatch'd a Lamb away ;
But from their Mouths I pluck'd the bleating Prey ;
Furious they rose their Booty to regain,
But by my faithful Sheep-hook both were slain :
That God who sav'd from their devouring Jaws,
Will aid me in his own, and *Israel's* Cause :
By me will humble this fell Monster's Pride,
Who has his Armies and himself defy'd :
Like one of these shall that Blasphemer be,
‘Tis Heav'n alone that gives the Victory.

Go then, with Joy and Wonder, *Saul* reply'd,
 Go, and since God inspires thee, God will be thy
 Guide.

CXXX.

David kills Goliah. The Philistines routed.

THE valiant Youth in *Saul's* bright Ar- }
 mour dress'd,
 Is only with its cumbrous weight oppress'd,
 And for the Battel does himself divest :
 Nor other Arms he needs for his *Defence*,
 But those of Faith, of Pray'r and Innocence :
 Yet to offend and quell his Country's Foes,
 Five Stones he from the neighb'ring Valley chose :
 One Hand his Staff, a Sling his other held,
 And thus equipp'd he marches to the Field :
 O Shaine of human Strength, and boasted Might !
 ---But thus to crush the Proud is Heaven's Delight.

The *Gittite* with Disdain the Youth surveys,
 Great *Dagon* ! such a beardless Boy, he says,
 Is this the Champion, these the Arms you bring
 To Combat Men ? A Staff, a Stone, a Sling !
 Approach, rash Boy, and die ! ---for 'tis beneath
 Our Fame, to move one Step to bring thee Death !

When

CXXX.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XVII. from Ver. 37.
to the End.

249



Ver. 50. David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine and slew him ; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

51. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

52. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, &c.

When

When *David* thus-- (and see a Light divine,
Omen of Conquest round his Temple shine !)
Thou com'st to me with Sword and Shield, and
Spear,

And all the glitt'ring Instruments of War:
But in the Name of Great *Jehovah*, I,
Whose Armies thou, Blasphemer ! dar'd desie,
Descend to fight, secure of Victory :
Thy Host shall fall, and future Ages tell,
There is a God that reigns in *Israel*.

The Monster rag'd, and with a furious Look
He hastens on, the Ground beneath him shook :
More happy haste the Youth to meet him makes,
And from his Scrip the fatal Stone he takes,
Then with unerring Aim against him threw,
Wing'd with sure Death, and hissing as it flew :
In his broad Forehead deeply plung'd it lay,
His crashing Scull to Life's chief Seat gave way :
He falls, his Armour clanks against the Ground,
And Blood and Brains crowd mingled thro' the
Wound :

The Hero ran, and from the Champion's side,
Drew his broad Sword, in Slaughter often dy'd ;
One Blow his Head did from the Trunk divide.
Swift fled the fore-skinn'd Army at the sight,
Vain, as their Boasts before, now was their Flight :

Shouted the Hebrew Host, their Foes pursue ;
Wading through Blood, and countless Thousands
slew :

Scarce cou'd the Walls of *Gath* and *Ekron* shield
From their victorious Swords the Reliques of the
Field.

CXXXI.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XVII. Ver. 57.
Chap. XVIII. to Ver. 4.

The Friendship of David and Jonathan.
A Digression concerning Friendship.

Ghastly, and pale, and dropping putrid Gore,
His impious Mouth blaspheming now no
more ; } }

The Monster's Head to *Saul* young *David* bore :
Scarce cou'd the conqu'ring Army bear the sight ;
The Hero scarcely cou'd support its weight :
What loud Applause his Actions justly gain !
What Songs, recording his Ten thousand slain !
Ev'n then the growing Seeds of Ill infest
With jealous Envy *Saul*'s malignant Breast :
The Fair commend the Youth, the Brave approv'd,
But matchless *Jonathan* admir'd and lov'd :

By

By ev'ry Word and graceful Action charm'd,
 His princely Breast with sacred Friendship warm'd :
 Insensibly the kindly Ardor stole,
 And wrought itself within his secret Soul :
 He gave his Sword and Bow--- The Gift was poor,
 His noble Heart was *David's* all before.

What art thou, Friendship's now forgotten Name,
 Who dost with Heav'n ambitious Kindred claim ?
 No cold Acquaintance, no unhallow'd Fire,
 By Interest fann'd, or kindled by Desire :
 Where both the *same*, no *Sympathy* is shown,
 There's no *exchange* of *Souls* where *both* are *one*.

As Light, which claims the Sun its glorious
 Cause, }
 Its bless'd Effect our Joy and Wonder draws,
 Yet scorns a narrow Definition's Laws ; }
 So all admire thy Power ; but what thou art,
 We must not ask the Tongue, but ask the Heart.

How bless'd the Soul by thy kind Influence
 warm'd ! }
 How many Miracles by thee perform'd !
 How fondly Mortals of thy Loss complain,
 Thy Footsteps trace, and court thy Smiles in vain ! }
 'Tis Virtue is the solid Base alone.
 Which, firmer than the Center, bears thy Throne : }
 When that is to its native Regions flown ! }

We thee unjustly hope, unjustly claim,
Friendship, when Virtue's gone, is but an empty
Name.

CXXXII.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XVIII. from Ver. 8.
to Ver. 11.

Saul envies David, and seeks to kill him.

CAN hateful Envy, that uneasy Guest
Of vulgar Souls, invade the Royal Breast,
And rob great Saul himself of Peace and Rest ?
It dar'd not till his heavenly Guards were fled,
And left the Charge of his devoted Head :
When from deep Hell that odious Fantom came,
And, like a ruddy Comet's boding Flame,
Swerv'd through th' Abyss, to trembling Gibeah
flew,
And enter'd, at the slumb'ring Monarch threw
Her best lov'd Snake, too well the way it knew :
Around his Heart in deadly Curls it twin'd,
Suck'd his best Blood, and Poyson left behind :
His alter'd Eyes the secret Taint confess,
His stormy Brow, and sallow Face no less :

While

While on his healing Harp young *David* plays,
And the black Humour's Rage in vain allays.

He sung, how on the Clouds great *Michael* rode,
And led to War the valiant Sons of God :
Beneath whose Arms th' apostate Legions fell,
Who half unpeopled Heav'n, and crowded Hell :
The hideous noise affrighted *Chaos* made,
When *Lucifer*'s vast Bulk did her black Waves }
invade,

Like some broad burning Island floating laid ;
While round their Prince his vanquish'd Chiefs
respire,

Into vex'd *Ether* spouting Seas of Fire :
What Sounds of Joy ran round the Victor Host,
Who not their Courage, or their Conduct boast ;
But God's high Praise employ'd the heav'nly
Quire,

While each triumphant Seraph touch'd his tune-
ful Lyre.

Deaf to his Charms the gloomy King appears,
The Fiend that seiz'd his Breast, had clos'd his
Ears :
With sudden Rage thro' whizzing Air he threw
His beamy Spear, which quiver'd as it flew,
And sought the Youth : some Angel who stood by
To hear, to learn his heav'nly Harmony

Diverts the coming Death, it glanc'd aside,
Th' impressive Force against the Cedar dy'd :
When from his Seat the royal Minstrel fled,
And for the promis'd Crown preserv'd his sacred
Head.

CXXXIII.

*Merab offer'd. Michal given to David.
She preserves his Life.*

THE fair *Abinoam*, whose unsported Breast
 Of every Grace and every Love possess'd,
Great *Saul* had with two beauteous Daughters
 bless'd.

Merab the first, of a Majestic Mien ;
Conscious of her high Birth, she spoke and look'd a
 Queen :

Michal, the younger, milder Rays adorn ;
Her Sister like the midday-Sun, she like the rising
 Morn.

From *David's* Arms the haughty *Merab* fled,
And head-long ran to wealthy *Adriel's* Bed :
Michal the Youth with juster Eyes survey'd,
Nor unconcern'd he view'd the Royal Maid :

They

They love, yet wou'd in vain their Love conceal,
 (For what their Lips deny'd, their Eyes reveal :)
 Their Passion, Gratitude and Duty name,
 Yet soon the Court perceiv'd their growing
 Flame :

From *Saul* not hid, who with malicious Joy
 Improves th' Event the Hero to destroy :
 No Joynture for his Daughter he requir'd,
 Tho' she by many a neighb'ring Prince desir'd :
 Not all bright *Ophir's* Wealth by him was priz'd,
 Like just Revenge upon th' uncircumcis'd :
 A hundred Fore-skins of *Philistian* Knights,
 Vanquish'd by him, and slain in single Fights
 Was all he ask'd ; they'd prove an easie Prey,
Goliath had already shown the way.
 Arose the Youth, fill'd with a noble Flame,
 Kindled at once by Beauty and by Fame,
 And like a Torrent on *Philistia* came : }
 Two hundred of their choicest Knights he slays,
 And in full Tale the bloody Dowry pays :
 Not *Ashdod* more enrag'd, or *Gaza* mourn'd
 Than *Saul*, when *David* with Success return'd :
 Yet can't the Royal Promise be deny'd,
 The charming *Michal* soon is made his Bride.
 ---But his unnat'r al Father still pursues,
 His sacred Life, his thirst of Blood renew's :

A Band of Russians round his Palace spread,
 Which *Idumæan Doeg* cursing led,
 A vast Reward to him, that brings the Traitor's
 Head :

But pious *Michal* thro' the conscious Night,
 Conveys her Lord, and give him time for Flight :
 The murd'rous Guards with honest Fraud de-
 ceives :
 A well-dissembled Image only leaves :
 Thus sav'd the future Grace of *Israel's* Throne,
 And thus preserv'd a Life far dearer than her own.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XVIII. from Ver.
 17. to the End.

Ver. 17. Saul said to David, Behold, my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife : only be thou valiant for me, and fight the Lord's battel, &c.

19. But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

20. And Michal Saul's daughter loved David : and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

21. And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, &c.

25. Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry ; but an hundred fore-skins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the kings enemies.

27. David arose, and went; he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men, &c.

CXXXIV.

Jonathan's Covenant with David.

AS Sol's bright Beams malignant Vapours
 raise,
 Which sink again, and cloud Earth's dusky Face,
 So sicken'd Saul at David's growing Praise :
 Griev'd at his Virtue's Lustre, and affraid,
 Which did the Dimness of his own upbraid :
 Still new Designs against his Life he forms,
 At Earth and Heav'n, when disappointed, storms :
 Yet still his gen'rous Son unalter'd stood,
 Not to be brib'd by Interest or by Blood :
 O wond'rous Prince ! who cou'dst with ease
 fore-go,
 Scepters and Crowns, and all Earth's empty show ;
 Which Fools above their Souls admire and
 prize,
 And whose false Splendor dazles ev'n the Wise.
 --- To thee thy persecuted *David* flies ;
 When Jonathan he finds, no more distress'd,
 He finds a safe Asylum in thy Breast :
 To his great Friend unbosoms all his Cares,
 And he the unwieldy Burthen more than shares.

CXXXIV.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XX. Ver. 35. to 38.

259



Ver. 35. ---Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.

36. And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

37. And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, Is not the arrow beyond thee?

38. And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.

What have I done ? *Zeusides* thus begins ;
 Who my Accusers are ; and what my Sins,
 That *Saul* with restless Rage my Life pursues :
 If die I must, thy Hand I'd rather chuse ;
 Thy friendly Sword, to pierce this faithful Breast,
 And send my weary trembling Soul to rest :
 But do not (O thou canst not !) me betray
 To my insulting Foes a guiltless Prey :
 By Friendship's sacred Laws I thee adjure,
 And let the Oath of God our mutual Faith
 secure !

Can *David* think, the High-born Youth replys,
 That I above a Friend, a Father prize ?
 If ought of Ill against thy Life design'd,
 (But sure it cannot be) I'll search his Mind ;
 Witness th' Almighty Pow'r that guards his
 Throne,

The worst shall to my noble Friend be shown :
 The while go rest secure at *Ezel*'s Stone !
 Thither, my Father sounded, I'll repair,
 My *Arrows* shall the silent Message bear.

He said, the Feast forbids the Princes stay,
 And *David* to the Field renews his secret way.

CXXXV.

Saul enquires for David at the Feast.
Jonathan excuses his absence. Saul
casts his Javelin at him, &c.

AND now from Gibeah's Hills with Joy they
view

The sacred Moon her blunted Horns renew :
The festal Trumpets spread the Tidings round,
And Gibeah's Hills return their silver Sound. }
The numerous free-neck'd Herd with Garlands }
crown'd

Beneath the Sacrificer's Ax expire ;
Then, part employ the Altars hallow'd Fire,
Part his on Spits, or vex'd with Flames beneath
Emitting Fume, in brazen Cauldron's seeth.

Next see the Tables spread, the hallow'd Fare
The Priests did with the Prince and People share ;
(For 'twas a Tale in after-days devis'd,
That for themselves alone they sacrific'd.)
The Monarch first, on his high Throne was plac'd,
A second Seat by Jonathan was grac'd,
Brave Abner fill'd the Third, but by his side,
The place of David still was unsupply'd :
Not unobserv'd by Saul, whose jealous Eyes,
Had mark'd his absence from the Sacrifice :

At length he of his Son the Cause enquir'd.
David, he answers, earnestly desir'd,
 He to his native *Bethl'hem* might repair,
 His Father's solemn Sacrifice to share :
 When pale with Rage the furious King replies,
 (Defeated Malice sparkling in his Eyes)
 False to thy self and me ! the Traitor dies !
 "That Rival of my Throne without delay
 Produce, or thy false Head for his shall pay :
 The faithful Prince pleads in his Friend's defence,
 He pleads in vain his Truth and Innocence :
 The Fiend had all the Father dispossess'd,
 And darts a Javelin at the Prince's Breast :
 He rose with Passion never known before,
 And to his Friend th' unwelcom Tidings bore :
 What was too big for Speech, his Arrows tell,
 Then on each others Neck with Tears they fell.

O happy Pair ! which shall I most commend,
 And which the braver Man, the better Friend ?
 The Palm to *Jonathan* is justly due,
 True to his Friend, against his Int'rest true.
 --- Yes, O thou dearer than my self to me !
 A Crown's a Trifle when compar'd to thee.
 Thus said the Prince---- 'Tis thine by God's own
 Choice,
 Confirm'd by *Israel*'s loud according Voice :

Thy

Thy Foes impeach thy steady Fate in vain,
 Which still moves on, nor will thy Friend
 complain,
 }
 Nor can I lose a Crown, if David reign.
 Next, and but next to thee shall I have place,
 And thou shalt Kindness shew to all my Race.

Part of his pious Hopes by Heav'n were sign'd,
 But part, alas ! were lost, and scatter'd into Wind.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XX. Ver. 24. to
 the End.

Ver. 27. ---Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?

28. And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me, to go to Bethlehem :

30. Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of a perverse rebellious woman, &c.

32. Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?

33. And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him : whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.

34. So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month : for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame, &c.

CXXXVI.

Ahimelech and the Priests at Nob accus'd
and slain by Doeg.

YET did th' orac'lous sacred Ephod shine
On just *Ahimelech* of *Eli's* Line :
Faintly it shone, its faded Beams portend,
The things concerning him must soon have end :
A plain good Man, he wore no double Face ;
True to his Friend, and Virtue in Disgrace :
To God's anointed true, yet always free
From Courtiers Craft, and servile Flattery.
At *Nobah* was his pleasant humble Seat,
A sacerdotal College and Retreat :
As *David* from the jealous Tyrant fled,
Hither by *Eli's* Destiny he's led,
Goliath's Sword receives, and hallow'd Bread :
Doeg of *Idumæan* Race was there,
Who did too near rough *Esau's* nature share :
Salvage and brutish as the Herds he fed,
To *Carmel's* Hill, or *Bashan's* Pastures led :

CXXXVI.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XXII. from Ver. 9.
to the End.

265



Ver. 9. Doeg the Edomite, (which was set over the servants of Saul) said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

10. And he enquired of the Lord for him, and gave him viands, and gave him the sword of Goliah the Philistine.

11. Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king, &c.

18. And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day four-score and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.

As

As now before the Oracle he stood,
The Hero and the Priest oblique he view'd.
With Rage and barb'rous Joy, and Thirst of
Blood :

So glares the Felon-Wolf across the Plain,
When faithful Dogs his hungry Rage restrain,
And howls and licks his frothy Jaws in vain ;
Yet hopes at length to seize th' unguarded Prey.
False *Doeg* so to *Gibeah* speeds his way ;
To furious *Saul* he brings th' unwelcom News,
Of *David's* Flight, and does the Priest accuse :
When for *Abimelech* the Tyrant sends,
Who soon with all his Father's House attends :
In vain his Innocence wou'd ward the Blow,
He must be guilty, *Saul* wou'd have so :
Nor wou'd a single Murther please ; on all
The sacred Priests he bids his Servants fall :
The generous Guards the hateful Work refuse,
Rather than take *their* Lives, their own they'd lose :
To *Doeg* next he turns, who pleas'd obeys,
The Priests unarm'd the valiant Murd'rer slays :
Their loud-tongu'd Wounds, emit a purple Flood,
Their holy Vestments roll'd in Dust and Blood :

Almost an Hecatomb resign their Breath,
Compos'd the Guiltless fell, and smil'd on Death.
From thence, unsated still, the Traitor flew
To trembling Nob, and all that breath'd he slew :
Abiathar alone escap'd the snare,
To *David* in the Desart did repair,
And found a safe Retreat, and gen'rous wel-
com there. }
}

CXXXVII.

David in the Cave of Adullam. He carries his Parents to Moab. Relieves Keilah, &c.

THE while *Adullam's* faithful Cave defends,
From *Saul's* fierce Rage the Hero and his Friends :
Who-e're in Want, or Debt, or Discontent,
To *David* as their sure Protector went :
Some few good Men his suff'ring Virtue drew,
To own his Cause, but those were always few :

His

His aged Parents, now his weightiest Care,
 (He knew their Lives the Tyrant wou'd not
 spare,) }

To Moab's Realms, almost a Native there
 His pious Duty brings, and Refuge found,
 And quiet Seats, to Judah's fertile Bound ;
 He with his faithful Servants takes his way,
 And close conceal'd in Hareth's Forest lay :
 But restless Fame upon her various Wings,
 To his Retreat important Tidings brings :
 That Keilah by Philistine Arms was press'd,
 And all the forag'd Country round distress'd :
 Nor this cou'd David's lively Virtue bear,
 Yet Heav'n consults e're he begins the War :
 Commission'd thence his valiant Band he heads,
 And not to Battel but to Conquest leads :
 Invades th' Invader's Host ; part routed fly,
 And part beneath the Victor's Swords they die :
 Keilah reliev'd, and all the Spoil regain'd,
 The Hero in th' ungrateful Town remain'd ;
 Who their Deliv'rer wou'd to Saul betray ;
 Their Embryo Treason, while it lurking lay
 In its dark Causes, God to David shows ;
 To Ziph and woody Hachilah he goes,
 But still betray'd, his Haunts the Tyrant knew,
 And did to Maon's craggy Rocks pursue :
 His doubtful Troops he in the Mountains found,
 And with a num'rous Host encompass'd round :

Safe in his Toils the trembling Prey he thought,
Nearer, and still more near the Circle brought,
When see a panting Messenger appear,
Silent awhile he stood for Haste and Fear:
At length with scarce recover'd Breath he said,
" Great Sir! Philistian Troops the Land invade!
When Saul, the Tyrant left, the King indues,
And private Piques adjourn'd, the publick Foe
pursues.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XXIII. to Ver. 14.
25. to 28.

Ver. 5. David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattel, and smote them with a great slaughter: so David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

12. And David said, O Lord God of Israel, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the Lord said, they will deliver thee up.

14. And David departed out of Keilah, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph: and Saul sought him every day, &c.

27. But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land.

28. Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines.

CXXXVIII.

Nabal's churlishness : Abigail wisely pacifies David.

UNhappy, who above the Vulgar born,
When two rich Churls oblig'd, and made
their Scorn ;
No Worth but Wealth, no Shame but Want they own,
Pity and Gratitude alike unknown.
No Mirth but Drunkenness ; in Store unbless'd,
For half the Year they starve to make one Miser's
Feast.

Such Nabal was, the Scandal and Disgrace
Of Judah's Line, and Caleb's gen'rous Race.
On Carmel's Fields, and Maon's shady Rocks
He browz'd his Goats, and fed his num'rous Flocks.
To him the beauteous Abigail was ty'd,
In harsh unequal Bands, condemn'd his Bride ;
Yet she his Faults cou'd bear and cover too,
And liv'd as well as Nabal's Wife cou'd do.

'Twas now the time when all his fleecy Train,
To recompence their Master's yearly Pain,
In bleating Droyes forsook the verdant Plain ;

CXXXVIII.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XXV. from Ver. 2,
to Ver. 42.

271



Ver. 18. Abigail took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses.

23. And when she saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and bowed herself to the ground.

27. And said, This blessing which thine hand-maid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

Whom

Whom first the purging crystal Streams receive,
And then their woolly Robes they gladly leave :
The Day well-worn the sweating Shearers rest,
And at long Tables every rustic Guest
Sits down confus'd at *Nabal*'s crowded Feast :
A hundred Sheep in his own Pastures fed,
With twenty Beeves from ranker *Bashan* led,
Loaded his Boards ; yet cou'd he nothing spare
For Heav'n, no Stranger was, or *Levite* there :
David in vain expects his Feast to share ;
Tho' while in *Maon*'s spacious Wild he staid,
Nor Wolves, nor Robbers dar'd his Flocks invade.
Nabal well-warm'd with Taunts his Men receives,
And only Language like himself he gives.
Th' affronted Hero bids his Troops prepare,
They gird their Swords and hasten to the War.
What pass'd, to prudent *Abigail* unknown,
Who from the drunken Feast retir'd alone.
(Happy her Sex, from Noise and Nonsense free,
In the calm Joys of sober Piety !)
When by her Servants told, with hafte she rose,
And down the steep with kind Refreshments goes,
T' appease the angry Chief ; surpriz'd they meet,
She kneels and throws herself at *David*'s Feet ;
Then with soft Words, and artful Praises joyn'd,
Disarm'd, at once, and pleas'd his gen'rous Mind :

He dropp'd his Sword, and with attention hung
On every charming Accent of her Tongue :
Her grateful Present smiling he receives,
And *Nabal*, churlish *Nabal's* self forgives :
So wou'd not Heav'n, for soon by sudden Death,
Th' unhospitable Wretch resigns his Breath :
His Farms, his Flocks, his useless hoarded Store,
His Fields, his Vines, his spacious Grange, and
more,
The beauteous *Abigail* compell'd he leaves,
Who Freedom by her Gaoler's Death receives ;
And when a Widow's decent Tears she'd shed,
Is, by a happy Change, preferr'd to *David's* Bed.

CXXXIX.

*The Ziphites discover David to Saul.
He pursues him. Abishai takes his
Spear, &c.*

THeir Treachery the Ziphites now repeat,
To *Saul* discov'ring *David's* close Retreat :
With Rage unquenchable the Tyrant rose,
And from his Host th'ree thousand Warriors chose ;
With these the Heav'n-protected Prince pursu'd,
Tir'd with the Chace, and faint for Thirst of
Blood :

T

He

He bear the Wild from Morn, till dewy Night
 Surpriz'd him there, when from a Mountain's
 height,

By the Moon's friendly and officious Light,
 The Hero his unguarded Camp surveys,
 And thus to his attending Worthies says,
 Is any here of Heart so firm, that dare
 Honour and Danger with his Gen'ral share,
 And to yon Camp descend to view the Foes ?
 With Joy the bold *Abishai* with him goes ;
 Swerv'd from the craggy Rocks at length they
 found

The careless drowsy Guards diffus'd around ;
 Ev'n faithful *Abner* slept ; they forward press'd
 To where the weary King himself did rest :
 Fierce was his mien, and threatening as he lay,
 His Thoughts recall'd the Labors of the Day.
 Close by his Head they saw his knotty Spear
 Planted, in Earth, a Cruse of Water near :
 When thus *Zeruiah's* Son--- the happy Hour
 Is now arriv'd, thy Foe is in thy Pow'r ;
 This Hand, this Spear shall do the righteous Deed ;
 A second Stroke the Tyrant shall not need :
 In Act to strike, see the fierce Warrior stand !
 But gen'rous *David* stops his lifted Hand :
 Forbid it Heav'n ! thou shalt not him destroy,
 Nor at so dear a Rate wou'd I a Crown enjoy :

CXXXIX.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XXVI. from Ver. 1,
to Ver. 17.

275



Ver. 7. David and Abishai came to the people by night, and behold Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his boister: but Abner and the people lay round about him.

8. Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear, even to the earth, at once, and I will not smite him the second time.

9. And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?

The Lord's Anointed's sacred Life forbear !
He shall the common Fate of Mortals share,
Or sink by Heav'n's just Stroke, or fall in War.
Yet take the Spear and Cruse, nor longer stay,
And to our Friends, for us, in Pain, convey !

They went; nor sooner had their Camp regain'd,
Saul's Army still in heavy Sleep detain'd :
When from a distant Mountain *David* cry'd,
While to his Voice the echoing Vales reply'd ;
Ho, *Abner* ! --- Who with *Abner* may compare,
In *Israel* Chief, and Father of the War :
Where is the Gen'ral's Conduct and his Care ?
One of the People came your Lord to slay ;
Justly your Heads for your neglect shou'd pay.
Born from the Camp, behold the royal Spear !
Behold, untouched, the Cruse of Water here !

His Father knew the Voice, confounded stood,
And thus he spoke, almost relaps'd to Good :

Virtue, like thine, Success can never fail,
It rises when oppress'd, and shall at last prevail.

CXL.

David flies to Achish. Saul goes to the Witch of Endor. Samuel appears, &c.

LEST Saul's weak Virtue shou'd not long endure,

David with Achish does himself secure ;
To whom the Royal Bounty Ziklag gives,
Where happy with his Hebrew Friends he lives :
Not so proud Saul on his uneasie Throne,
Which totter'd; now its chief Support was gone :
Too well Philistian Lords his Weakness knew,
As David he of late, they him pursue :
To Gilboa, he a pow'rful Army draws,
Had but their Hearts been equal to their Cause ;
But with his Crimes and hastning Fate oppress'd
Their guilty Gen'ral's Fear infects the rest :
Unwillingly to God he flies at last,
But 'twas too late, his Day of Mercy past :
Then desp'rate thus-- Since Heav'n will not foretel
My Fate, 'tis time to seek Relief from Hell ;
Almost defeated there, those Wretches slain,
Who with accursed Spir'ts did Leagues maintain,
(For God to Moses gave not Laws in vain.)
As Fortun'd, one her Sister-Hags surviv'd,
Who with her trusty Imp at Endor liv'd :

To her th' unhappy Monarch chose to fly,
 To know the worst, and read his Destiny :
 Disguis'd he did the trembling Sage accost,
 And bids her raise him *Samuel's* awful Ghost :
 With mystic Characters a Circle made,
 Low-murr'ring dire forbidden Words she said, }
 And pow'rful Spells repeating, backward pray'd.
 But whilst her servile Fiends attempt to frame
 Illusive Shapes, the real *Samuel* came :
 The Witch his God-like Form survey'd, and knew,
 'Twas more than all her boasted Charms cou'd do :
 She knew the bless'd beyond her magic Call,
 'Tis *Samuel's* self, she cry'd, and thou art *Saul* !
 The Monarch saw, and knew the more than Man ;
 He bow'd to Earth, and *Samuel* thus began.

Unhappy Prince ! Why, ev'n amongst the }
 Bleis'd,
 Hast thou disturb'd my Soul, and robb'd of Rest ? }
 When thus the King replies--- I'm sore distress'd :
Philistia with unequal Force invades,
 And from thy envy'd Rest and peaceful Shades
 Once more I call thee for thy sage Advice,
 Since God has left me, and no more replies.

If God himself thy Enemy is grown,
 And to thy injur'd *David* gives thy Throne ;
 Agen the Prophet answers, Why too late
 Am I disturb'd to shew thy luckless Fate ?

Thy

CXL.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XXVII. Ver. 1. to 6.

Chap. XXVIII. Ver. 3. to 20.

279



Chap. XXVIII. Ver. 11. Saul said, bring me up Samuel.

12. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

13. And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth.

14. And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself, &c;

Thy Disobedience *Amalek* did spare,
 What *Agag* miss'd, thy self art doom'd to share.
 --Prepare! against to morrow's Sun prepare!
Israel shall fall, and Thou and Thine shall be
 Thin airy Ghosts, and empty Shades like me.

The Prince, the dismal Tidings can't sustain,
 But drops to Earth, at length reviv'd in vain;
 Unhappy to awake and die with greater Pain.

CXLI.

I SAMUEL, Chap. XXIX. Ver. 1. and
 Chap. XXXI. to Ver. 4.

*The Fight between Israel and the Philistines
 in Gilboah. Saul and Jonathan slain.*

AND now approach'd the Great decisive Day,
 And greedy Death hung hov'ring o're her Prey:
 Nor more content with mean and vulgar Fare,
 The Flesh of Kings and Captains long'd to share;
 On Gilboah's green Hills her Table spread,
 In Triumphs thither the crown'd Victims led.
 From Aphek's Plain the fore-skin'd Host ascend,
 The circumcis'd awhile the Hill defend;
 Lodg'd on the Cliff an Iron-Wall they stood,
 Floated the hollow Road with Streams of Blood;

Thro'

Thro' whose warm Tide the fierce *Affailants* wade,
And nearer these the Hebrew Foes invade ;
Beneath their *serred Shields*, while those from far
With *Darts* and *Stones* maintain a *missive War* :
The Battel hung, and neither side gave way,
Till *Achish* charg'd himself and turn'd the Day :
A Show'r of feather'd Deaths his Guards let fly ;
At once their Bow-strings twang'd, and fill'd the Sky :

As with red *Lightnings* fork'y *Shafts* o'rethrown,
Stretch'd on the Turf th' expiring Hebrews groan ;
Almost as swift their Foes the Passage gain,
And to the Hill descend from heaps of Slain, }
The rest oppose or flee, alike in vain :
The Brave oppress'd with Odds, the vulgar find
Inglorious Death, their Wounds were all behind.
Such were not *Jonathan's*, unmov'd and great,
His Host they might, but cou'd not him defeat : }
He saw his wounded Father's slow Retreat,
He saw the furious Guards his Life pursue,
His precious Life to shield, himself he threw
Before their Swords ; awhile he stopp'd their Chace,
Calm and secure of Death, yet terrible his Face.
Hamgar, the haughty Prince of *Ashdod's* Town,
First came too near his Sword, which chin'd him
down ;
Scarce cou'd the Wretch blaspheme, so swift he fell,
His faithless Soul was in such haste for Hell.

Nor that alone, for soon the Hero sends
 To wait their Lord, an Army of his Friends :
 The rest retire, renew th' Assault from far,
 Nor longer Hand to Hand wou'd tempt the War :
 Besieg'd the Prince, unknowing how to yield,
 Tho' Show'rs of Arrows clatter'd round his Shield ;
 Tho' Groves of Darts his faithless Armour bor'd,
 And purple Streams thro' ev'ry Passage pour'd.
 " ---Thus far, my Father ! Jonathan has done,
 " Both what became a Subject and a Son.
 " May Heav'n preserve--- and more he wou'd
 have said,
 But Life thro' wide and num'rous Portals fled,
 And grasping still his Sword, he falls among the
 Dead.

Less happy Saul, whom now his Foes pursue,
 And still more near the Royal Quarry drew ;
 Wounded and faint he cou'd no longer fly,
 Yet by Philistine Hands disdain'd to die ;
 Behold his own his fatal Sword apply
 To his broad Breast, which soon the way did find,
 The Hilt on Earth, the Point appear'd behind :
 While his fierce Soul to those sad Mansions fled,
 Where Tyrants reign in Wo above the vulgar Dead.

CXLII.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. I. from Ver. 1.
to the End.

David's Elegy on Saul and Jonathan.

A Round the Land th' amazing Tidings spred,
That Israel's Host before the Heathen fled,
And Saul, and matchless Jonathan were dead:
 }
 Fessides heard, nor longer cou'd resent
His private Wrongs; he wept, his Robes he rent,
His festal Triumphs into Fasting turn'd,
Forgave the Tyrant, and the Father mourn'd.
How did he then his Jonathan deplore!
His Friend, his dearer self was now no more:
Thus did at length his Loyal Passion vent,
And thus his Country's Loss in deathless Songs
lament.

Thy Glory, Israel! and thy Beauty mourn!
Tis vanish'd, never, never to return.
Ah! who in feeble Mortal's Strength wou'd trust?
Tis fallen, fallen, fallen to the Dust!

O tell it not in Gath's triumphant Gate,
Nor in the Streets of Ashkalon relate:

Lest Capthor's Daughters shou'd insulting cry,
Their Dagon conquers him who rules the Sky.

O fatal Gilboa, where my Friend was slain :
No Dew on thee descend, or kindly Rain !
No Corn or Wine thy blasted Surface yield,
Accurs'd and burnt, as Sodom's dismal Field ; }
For there was lost the Warrior's mighty Shield,
The Shield of Saul was lost ; his sacred Head, }
Tho' the bless'd Oyl around his Temples shed, }
Profan'd and mingled with the vulgar Dead.

Thy Bow, my Friend ! was never drawn in vain ;
Thy Arrows drunk the Blood of thousands slain.
What Armies fell by Saul's victorious Sword,
Too faithful now to its despairing Lord ?

Princely his Stature, charming was his Air :
With him alone cou'd Jonathan compare :
Lovely in Life, in Death too near ally'd,
Not Death itself their Friendship cou'd divide :
Swifter than Eagles cut their airy way,
Stronger than Lions when they seize the Prey.

Mourn all ye Loves ! ye tender Virgins mourn !
Your flowry Wreaths to Cypress Garlands turn :
Mourn your lov'd Monarch's lamentable Fate,
On whom so oft your charming Quire did wait, }
As he from Fight return'd in Kingly State :

For you he conquer'd ; you did with him share
The *Wealth* of *Peace* and glorious *Spoils* of *War* :
Lay by your *purple Robes* from *Sidon's* shore,
And wear your splendid *Coronets* no more ;
For *Saul* who gave 'em, *generous Saul* is lost,
And silent *Shades* receive his *mighty Ghost*.

How are the *Mighty* fallen-- their *Strength* in vain !
O *Jonathan* ! thou wert in *Battel* slain !
Stretch'd on cold *Earth*, thy *lifeless Limbs* as cold,
Nor those dear *Eyes* must I agen behold.
O *Jonathan* ! How shall I thee *commend* !
My more than *Brother*, and my more than *Friend* !
My *Life*, my *Jonathan* ! --- And can we part ?
I feel my *Loss* hang *heavy* on my *Heart*,
With mortal *Anguish* is my *Soul* oppress'd,
I wear thy *bleeding Image* in my *Breast*.
Thy *Friendship* did the *tend'rest Love* excel ;
'Twas like thy *self*, 'twas all a *Miracle* :
A pure, a constant, and a *heav'nly Fire*,
Beyond the *softer Sexes* frail *Desire*.

How are the *Mighty* fallen ? Their *Fate* deplore !
Thy *Sword*, thy *Spear* and *Shield*, O *Israel* ! are no
more !

CXLIII.

David anointed King by the Tribe of Judah. Ishbosheth made King by Abner. Asahel slain.

THus fell unhappy *Saul*, and in his stead
The promis'd Crown adorns young *David's*
Head:

Brave *Abner* for a while resists in vain,
Divides, but can't prevent his fated Reign :
Weak *Ishbosheth*, who now, almost alone
Surviv'd, he plac'd on his Great Father's Throne :
His Fame did *Israel* to his Party bring,
And *Abner* rul'd, tho' *Ishbosheth* was *King* :
But *Judah's* pow'rful *Tribe* for *David* stood,
Pleas'd with the Choice of *Heav'n* (and with their
Kindred-Blood.)

Weary of Peace, at length the Tribes engage
In civil *Discord*, and *intestine Rage*.

Abner, th' *Aggressor*-- he to *Gibeon* went,
And first will he th' unequal War repent :
Fierce *Joab* hears with *Joy*; the Guards he heads,
And to repel the bold *Invader* leads :
Their Out-guards met, awhile suspended stood,
And their new Foes with sullen Silence view'd, {
But soon in Blood their thirsty Swords embrew'd ; }
No

CXLIII.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. II. from Ver. 19.
to Ver. 23.

287



Ver. 19, 20. Asahel pursued after Abner, and Abner looked behind him, and said, Art thou Asahel? And he answered, I am.

22. And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground!

23. Howbeit he refused to turn aside: wherefore Abner with the hinder end of the spear smote him under the fifth rib, that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place.

No Skill, no Fear, no Mercy there, but All
 The desp'rate Champion's close; and mingled fall:
 Nor these cou'd hungry Death suffice, for they
 But Preludes to the Slaughter of the Day:
 The Bodies joyn, with equal Fury fir'd,
 By turns each other push'd, by turns retir'd:
 Till Conquest saw at last the beck of Fate,
 And threw in David's Scale her over-weight.
 Nor Abner's self his tott'ring Host cou'd stay,
 Himself he's in the Torrent born away:
 Yet oft he stands, for he disdains to yield,
 And heads the scatter'd Reliques of the Field:
 Thus, press'd with Odds, the Lion sow'rly flies,
 And glares on his rash Foes with Blood-shot Eyes;
 If any reach his Paws, the bold Invader dies.
 Thus forward Asahel far'd, who swift as Wind,
 Pursu'd and press'd the Hero close behind:
 Unarm'd the panting Warrior ran, and light,
 As hastening to a Conquest, not a Fight:
 Ah, heedless Boy! the gen'rous Abner cry'd,
 Turn from thy hast'ning Fate--- yet turn aside!
 If thou thy unflesh'd Valour long to try,
 Single a less unequal Enemy!
 Closer he plies, and soon he hopes to share
 The Gen'ral's Spoils, the noblest Prize of War:
 Agen the Hero warns, --he presses on;
 " 'Tis in the Fates, thy Fate thou canst not shun,"

Great *Abner* sighing said-- that 'tis not Fear
Which *wirns* thee thus, learn from my *faithful*
Spear!

Then struck -- to *Life's chief Seat* the way it found,
And *Blood* and *Soul* rush mingled thro' the *Wound*.
So falls the lovely *Lily*, *Natures Pride*,
When ruthless *Shares* its *Stem*, and *beauteous Head*
divide.

The furious *Victors*, who *pursu'd* before,
Now stand, to see him *weltring* in his *Gore* ;
While *Abner* rallys after his *Defeat*,
And mournful *Zoab* sounds a *late Retreat* :
All *Night* he march'd, the *Host* to *Hebron* come,
And bear his *Brother's Corps* with *joyless Triumphs*
home.

CXLIV.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. III.

The Death of Abner,

UNhappy that *weak Prince*, who *fear'd* by none,
But *dimly shines* on a *precarious Throne* :
Of *Foes* alike, and *pow'rful Friends* afraid,
Aw'd by those *Idols* which himself has made :
A *Truth* by *Ishbosheth* perceiv'd too *late*,
Whether it were his *Folly* or his *Fate* ;

When *Abner* with ambitious Passion fir'd,
 To beautious *Rizpah's* Love and Bed aspir'd ;
 Him, in her Heart a Monarch's Place she gave,
 For hardly can the Fair deny the Brave :
 This *Ishboseth* with feeble Passion heard,
 Half-frown'd, and was as angry as he dar'd ;
 He thinks his Father's Ashes were profan'd,
 And softly *Abner* chid, who his Reproof disdain'd :
 'Tis thus, said he, ungrateful Princes slight
 Those Services they never can requite :
 Did I both God's and *Judah's* Choice disown,
 And fix thee on thy Father's tott'ring Throne ;
 And am I for that despicable thing,
 A Woman, faulted, by a feeble King ?
 --No-- 'tis too much : So God and more to me,
 If I confirm not righteous Heav'n's Decree :
 The Son of *Jesse's* Title I'll maintain,
 Who now from *Dan* shall to *Beersheba* reign.

His Threats the crouching Monarch tamely hears,
 Mute as the Dead, and ill conceals his Fears :
 Not so th' affronted Chief, who soon is grown
 For *David's* Cause a Patron, and his own ;
 The Heads of Tribes solicits and prevails,
 His Weight with ease inclines the dubious Scales :
 None e're like *David* had their Battels fought,
 He talk'd of God, but still of *Rizpah* thought :

At length when all was ripe, to *Hebron* goes,
 And did to *David* his *Design* disclose :
 The *League* is made, he *treated* and *caress'd*,
 And then *dismiss'd* with *Thanks* his *Princely Guest* :
 Nor *Zoab* this, who new from *Fight* return'd,
 His *slaughter'd Brother's* Fate he long had }
 mourn'd,

And still with deep *Revenge* he inly burn'd :
 For *Abner* on his way advanc'd, he *sends*,
 They meet, *embrace*, and who were greater *Friends*?
 Then stabs him to the *Heart*, and as he fell
This, this, he cries, for murder'd *Asahel* !
 Thus *Treachery* did *Treachery* pursue,
 And thus a *Murderer* a haughty *Traitor* slew.

CXLV.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. IV, V.

Ishbosheth slain. David crown'd. The Jebusites conquer'd, and the Philistines.

THo' *Ishbosheth* was mov'd when *Abner* slain,
 To dear *Indiff'rence* he subsides again, }
 Is all himself, and saunters out his *Reign*:
 With *Sloth*, the meanest Vice in Kings, oppress'd,
 No Cares of Empire e're disturb'd his *Rest*:

The Day ran waste, for him too soon it rose,
 He till High-noon indulg'd his lov'd Repose ;
 Till by false Traitors of his Life bereft,
Asleep they found him, and asleep they left ;
 Then conscious of their Guilt, to Hebron fled,
 And cast at David's Feet his Rival's Head.
 A vast Reward they hope for such a Prize ;
 He, from the ruthless Object turns his Eyes ;
 The Treason and the Traitors both he hates,
 And from his Guards they meet their righteous Fates.

And now, tho' late, the Tribes to Hebron came,
 And David King of all the Land proclaim :
 The sacred Contract firmly sworn, that none
 Shou'd fail of equal Justice from the Throne :
 Strong Jebus only still his Pow'r defies,
 On Canaan's ancient Idols much relies,
 More on its lofty Tow'rs that threat the Skies :
 Nor this cou'd the Jessean Virtue bear,
 But musters all the Tribes, and heads the War :
 The Town surrender'd soon, the Citadel,
 Proud of its Site, do's their Assaults repel,
 Who-e're their Idols cou'd, and them destroy,
 For Life he shall the Gen'ral's place enjoy :
 This heard Zerviah's Son, and shoots away,
 Nor Rocks, nor Darts, nor Men his Course cou'd
 stay :

The Battlements he gains, and leaping down,
Shouts to his Friends without--- The Fort's our }
own ;

Their ill-defended Gates are open thrown,
Enters the Hebrew-Army like a Flood,
While Heav'n is fill'd with Shrieks, and Earth
with Blood.

Unwarn'd, their Fates Philistine Armies know,
And in ill Hour they tempt their ancient Foe.
The Giant's Vale their num'rous Squadrons spred,
And to the War their Guardian Idols led ;
While David to the sacred Ephod goes,
And waits for Orders to attack his Foes :
These soon receiv'd, and of Success secure,
Which Heav'n did to his righteous Arms assure,
With speedy Marches at their Camp arrives,
And all before him unresisted drives :
That David still his Myriads few they find ;
Some fled, but left their captive Gods behind ;
Which with loud Shouts the Victor-Host destroy ;
Now first the Wood to some good use employ, }
They make their helpless Trunks, supply their }
Fire of Joy.

CXLVI.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. VI. and 1 CHRON.
Chap XV.

David prepares to bring the Ark to Sion.
Uzzah smitten. Obed-Edom bless'd.
The Ark carry'd by the Levites. Mi-
chal's Barrenness.

Rever'd and lov'd at home, abroad renoun'd,
Cover'd with Laurels, and with Conquest
crown'd,
Jessides sat, while to his working Thought,
Or Fate, or Choice, the dear Remembrance brought
Of God's bless'd Ark, which long, a Pilgrim grown,
Had sojourn'd in a Dwelling not his own :
His Heart no Ease, no Rest his Eye-lids found,
Till for its Seat he mark'd the destin'd Ground ;
Fair Sion's Holy Hill the bless'd abode,
And peaceful Mansion for the Ark of God :
The Flow'r of all the Tribes conven'd attend,
Three Myriads they their Course to Gibeah bend ;
And from thy House, Aminadab ! they bear
The sacred Pledge with inauspicious Care :
Two Sons, their aged Father's Hopes and Pride,
The Carriage, and the bellowing Oxen guide ;
On Lutes and Harps the long Procession play,
And David led the Quire, and led the way :
But soon their Pomp to silent Sorrow turn'd,
And David griev'd, and all th' Assembly mourn'd :

Nor

The weari'd Oxen stumbled in the Road,
At Nachon's Floor, and shook their precious Load:
Bold Uzzah saw, nor longer cou'd refrain,
But touch'd the sacred Ark with Hands profane :
Nor this th' offended Pow'r, whose Laws he broke,
His Rashness punish'd with a mortal Stroke ;
He drop'd to Earth and with a Groan expir'd,
The trembling Monarch from the Place retir'd ;
Which Uzzah's Name to distant Ages bore ;
The trembling Monarch dares attempt no more ;
The dreadful Ark upon the Road he leaves,
Which Obed-Edom's House with Joy receives :
Three wexing Moons it with the Gittite staid,
Whose hospitable Kindness not unpaid ;
With all his Household bless'd ; when David heard
Resuming Courage, he agen prepar'd
With Joy to bring it thence, but warn'd before
The Levites now the sacred Symbols bore :
Asaph and *Ethan* with sweet Heman joyn,
To praise the Goodness and the Pow'r divine ;
And strongly these the vocal Brass inspire,
These joyn their Voices to the tuneful Lyre,
The Monarch guides the Dance and guides the
Quire,

With all his active Strength he play'd and sung,
While Sion's Walls with Hallelujah's rung :
This Michal saw, averse, with haughty Eyes,
And in her Heart his meanness did despise ;
Nor wanted words sarcastic and profane,
Which not forgot, nor unrevenge'd remain ;
Accurs'd with Barrenness, she ne're cou'd claim,
Till Death had clos'd her Eyes, a Mother's joyful
Name.

CXLVII.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. VIII. IX. X.

David conquers Moab, Zobah and Damascus; shews Kindness to Mephibosheth; sends to condole with Hanun on his Father's Death: His Ambassadors abus'd, &c.

Moab, and Zobah, and thy happy Field,
Fair Darmesek! to conquering David yield:
Vast Sums his crowded Treasuries amass,
Of Gold and Silver, and of precious Brass:
For Presents these, and these for Spoils they bring,
From Hamath some, and some from Zobah's King:
To God who had his Arms with Conquest crown'd,
He gave the Prey, and deck'd his Altars round;
The rest within the Treasury they place,
Which must the future Temple build and grace:
Nor cou'd the Hero hope his Gifts alone,
And pompous Piety cou'd Heav'n attone;
An equal share those human Virtues claim,
Justice, and Gratitude, and Friendship's sacred Name:
Tho' on the Throne sublime, he cou'd not yet
His other-self, his Jonathan forget:
The Faults of Fortune he resolv'd to mend,
And for Mephibosheth to Court did send,
To pay a Debt due from his Father's Friend:
He his Paternal Fields agen restor'd,
And plac'd him daily at his regal Board.

Nor

Nor cou'd so gen'rous and so great a Mind,
 In his own Court or Kingdom rest confin'd :
 Ev'n Ammon's distant Fields it reach'd, and sent
 To Hanun a condoling Compliment ;
 Whose Father once receiv'd with Royal State
 That exil'd Chief, but now had paid his Debt to
 Fate :

The jealous Lords their easie Prince persuade,
 'Twas all Design, and he'd his Land invade :
 Against the Faith and Law of Nations us'd
 His Embassie, affronted and abus'd ;
 The Men to Jericho with Shame return'd,
 Nor David this, who with just Anger burn'd ;
 Joab and all his Host Revenge prepare,
 Nor conscious Ammon slow to meet the War :
 Of Zobah, Rehob, Israel's ancient Foes,
 Their strong auxiliary Troops compose ;
 Themselves distinct, their trusty Walls were nigh,
 If worsted in the Fight, and forc'd to fly ;
 The Cherethites undaunted Joab led,
 Who never yet in Battel shrunk or fled,
 The rest did brave Abishai's Virtue head : }
 When Joab thus--- If Syrian Arms prevail,
 And push the Guards, tho' never us'd to fail,
 You from your Wing shall speedy Succours send,
 As I to yours, if you to Ammon bend :
 We for our Hearths and Holy Altars fight,
 And Piety and Nature here unite :
 Like Men let's Conquer, or like Men let's die,
 And leave the Event to him who rules the Sky.
 Fir'd with his Words his Army breaks away,
 Nor for the Trumpets tardy Signal stay :
 The Syrians to superior Virtue yield,
 Dishearten'd Ammon sees, and quits with shame the
 Field.

CXLVIII.

David and Bathsheba.

HOW vain a Thing is Man ! the Great and
Brave,
How often some inferior Passions slave !
Too bad the best, by native Bent inclin'd :
---O why was Pow'r bestow'd on human kind,
A harmful Pow'r to make themselves unblest ?
---But vainly we with righteous Heav'n contest :
Man were not Man unless indulg'd Free-will,
And uncontroll'd in Choice of Good or Ill.
The Mind can no exteriour Force control,
When Beauty thro' the Body wounds the Soul :
Had David clos'd his Eyes, the fatal Dart
From Bathsheba had never reach'd his Heart ;
Vain of her Form, tho' she th' occasion gave,
And proud to have a Monarch call'd her Slave.
That Virtue which so many Storms cou'd bear,
Relax'd with Ease, grew sick in milder Air ;
Loose from his Couch with the declining Sun,
He rose, and came, and saw, and was undone :
Her Bosom the polluted crystal laves,
How wild a Flame shot upward from the Waves ?
Th' unguarded King beheld, review'd, admir'd,
Th' unknown forbidden Beauty he desir'd,
He blush'd and trembled, and her Name enquir'd, }
Which his officious Courtiers soon declare,
Her Lord detain'd in Ammon's dubious War :
Seduc'd with ease the willing Prey they bring,
His Blot, his Shame, his Curse to Judah's King :
In vain awhile their lawless Loves conceal'd,
First by th' Effects, and then the Punishment re-
veal'd.

CXLVIII.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XI. to Ver. 5.

299



Ver. 2. It came to pass in an evening-tide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house : and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself, and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

3. And David sent and enquired after the woman : and one said, Is not this Bathsheba the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite ?

4. And David sent messengers, and took her ; and she came unto him, and he lay with her.

CXLIX.

CXLI.

The Death of Uriah.

HOW short the vain' Delight that Sin procures !

How long the *Sting*, and *Shame*, and *Pain* endures !
From *Ill* to *Ill* our wand'ring Nature slides,
When *Piety*, no more, and *Virtue* guides :
To cloak *Adul'try* *Murther* must succeed,
And by base *Treason* brave *Uriah* bleed ;
Tho' milder Methods first the Monarch tries,
And wou'd in vain their *Guilt* and *Shame* Disguise :
Bathshebah ! for thy *injur'd Lord* he sends,
Who with *Dispatches* from the *Camp* attends ;
But with the *Pelethites* the *Guard* he kept,
Nor in his *violated Mansion* slept :
He scorn'd of *Ease* and soft *Repose* to taste,
While in the *Fields* their *Nights* the *Army* pass'd :
Tho' twice the conscious Monarch vainly tries
To hide their *Shame* ; the golden *Goblet* plies :
Well-warm'd the *Warrior* from his Presence sends,
And much of *Kindness* and of *Love* pretends :
The *Chief* persists ; how dear his *Firmness* cost !
His Life by *Murther* and by *Treason* lost :
He to the *Camp* the fatal *Letters* bears,
Which to the *Gen'rал David's* Will declares :

Too

CXLIX.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XI. from Ver. 14.
to the End.

301



Ver. 14. ---David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

15. And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the fore-front of the hottest battel, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

16. And it came to pass when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

17. And the men of the city went out and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David, and Uriah the Hittite died also.

Too

Too soon Zerviah's Son his Prince obeys,
 With Ammon's Sword the brave Uriah slays.
 The News is brought, which Ammiel's Daughter
 hears,
 And pays awhile a Widow's decent Tears :
 With easie Grief she mourns her Husband dead,
 But soon resumes her Robes, and shares the Monarch's
 Bed.

CL.

Nathan sent to David : His Parable, &c.

NO R this the righteous Pow'r enthron'd on high,
 Above the spacious Circle of the Sky ;
 Who weighs in equal Scales, our Crimes and Fates,
 And Sin, where e're he sees, abhors and hates :
 The rev'rend Nathan he to David sent,
 Who thus his Wrath disclos'd, and warn'd him to
 Repent.

Two Neighbours in one City did reside ;
 With all the steeds of Life was one supply'd,
 Nor wanted Food for Luxury and Pride :
 Of Herds and Flocks so num'rous was his Store,
 Bashan and Carmel hardly pastur'd more ;
 Unlike the other, indigent and poor,

His

CL.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XII. from Ver. 1.
to the End.

303



Ver. 11. Nathan said unto David, Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

12. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

13. And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die, &c.

His

His Stock in helpless Children only large,
 How unproportion'd his Estate and Charge?
 Yet frugal, he, and careful of the main,
 One Lamb procur'd, in hopes at length to gain
 Both Milk and Wool his Household to sustain : }
 With much of Pains 'twas nurs'd, and much of Care,
 His Meat and Drink the Favourite must share ;
 His Daughter's Rival ; thus caress'd by Day,
 By Night within his careful Arms it lay :
 As chanc'd one Ev'n a Stranger pass'd his Door.
 Nor call'd (for few make Visits to the Poor;) }
 But to his wealthy Neighbour did repair,
 In hopes of splendid Entertainment there : }
 The niggard Churl his Flocks and Herds to spare
 Seiz'd his poor Neighbour's Lamb, and kill'd, and
 drest, }
 And thus at others Cost he treats his Guest :
 When David, thus with Fury in his Eyes,
 Fourfold th' unpitying Wretch restores or dies :
 With alter'd Voice agen the Seer began,
 And thunder'd in his Ears--- THOU ART THE
 MAN ! }
 Thus saith the Lord, 'Twas I thy Life did save,
 And thee thy Master's Wives and Kingdom gave ;
 Why didst thou then my Laws and me despise ?
 Behold, where poor Uriah murther'd lies,
 By Ammon's Sword and thine, whose Blood for }
 Vengeance cries ; }

His *Spoils*, as of thy *Foe* in *Battel* slain,
 His *beauteous Wife* thou to thy self hast ta'ne :
 Not unreveng'd, for *Plagues* on *Plagues* shall rise
 From thine *own House*; thy *Wives* before thy *Eyes*,
 Before this *Sun*, be by thy *Neighbour* known,
 And spread thy wide *Dishonour*, and their *own* :
 This shalt thou for thy foul *Transgression* bear,
 Thus others warn, and thus affronted *Heav'n* repair.

CLI.

Amnon's Rape of Tamar. He is slain by Absalom.

NOR was the promis'd *Vengeance* long delaide,
 Th' *Arrears* of brave *Uriah's Ghost* unpaid :
 See where it comes like a *resistless Flood*,
 And *Lust* is plagu'd with *Lust*, and *Blood* with
Blood:

Fair *Tamar* kindles *Amnon's loose Desire*,
 Who forc'd the *Royal Maid*, and quench'd his *law-*
less Fire:

Possess'd of all he wish'd, he hates her more,
 (The *Sexes* wont) than he admir'd before :
 Nor this cou'd *Absalom's great Heart* digest,
 Tho' long he kept it boylng in his *Breast*:

Now twice the Sun had reach'd his annual Goal,
And view'd new Stars beneath each distant Pole ;
Then in the Lion all his force displays,
And shoots direct on Earth his burning Rays :
The fleecy Train their weight cou'd hardly bear,
And long to pay their Master's yearly Care ;
They and their bleating Lambs in Folds compell'd,
When Absalon a Feast in Hazor held,
The King and Court invites ; in vain he press'd,
His Father him deny'd, but kindly bles'd :
With more Success he his Desire renew'd,
When he for Amnon and his Brethren sues :
Chearful they go, on Regal Fare they dine,
And crown the plenteous Feast with noble Wine.
Their Host the Signal gave for Amnon's Death,
His Servants in his Breast their Poniards sheath :
Life gushes out at many a grisly Wound,
And mingled Blood and Wine distains the Ground :
The Boards are over-turn'd, the Guests are gone,
Look back, and think their Brother's Fate their own :
But Fame which alwaysmingles Truth with Lies,
And stretch'd on saily Wings still gathers as it flies,
Prevents their Speed, more swift than Fear it fled ;
And told th' astonish'd King, that all his Sons were
dead :
Swift to his Heart the frightened Blood repair'd,
And made a stand the Fort of Life to guard :

All deadly pale he from his Throne descends,
 Stretch'd on cold Earth his Royal Robes he rends;
 The same around his silent mournful Friends:
 Wise Jonadab alone applies Relief,
 Alone durst stem the Tide of Royal Grief:
 That Amnon only was for Tamar slain,
 He wou'd persuade, but wou'd persuade in vain;
 Till now the Royal Company appears,
 At once confirms, at once confutes their Fears,
 And with their mournful Father's mix their
 Tears;
 While Absalon to Syrian Geshur fled,
 And till his Fate was ripe, from Justice sav'd his
 Head.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XIII.

Ver. 10. ---Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother.

11. And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.

12. And she answer'd him, Nay, my brother, do not force me: for no such thing ought to be done in Israel; do not thou this folly.

14. Howbeit, he would not hearken unto her voice: but being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her, &c.

CLII.

Absalon's Return : He steals the Hearts
of the People.

EV'n earthly Gods when seated on the Throne,
Compell'd their frail Mortality must own ;
Their Counsels oft they change ; as oft by those
Abus'd, on whom they shine, and Faith repose :
This David was by dear Experience taught,
When Absalon he from long Exile brought :
Yet who cou'd fondness blame for such a Son,
So lov'd, so prais'd, so fair as Absalon ?
A manly Beauty he, without a Mole,
(Ah, had he but enjoy'd as fair a Soul !)
Nor cou'd the Raven's glossy Plumes compare,
When jetting in the Sun, with his long weight of
Hair :
To this the Tempter's self had scarce a Tongue
More softly fil'd than his, more smoothly hung ;
Form'd to deceive ; the Art of Courts he knew,
But more himself from bounteous Nature drew :
Chariots and Horse, and regal Pomp assumes,
And glitters in his slighted Father's Plumes ;
Nor needs he those, a Living Tide came round,
Where e're he walk'd, and bore him from the
Ground :

CLH.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XIV. from Ver. 23,
25, 26. Chap. XV. to Ver. 6.

309



Chap. XV. Ver. 2. Absalom stood beside the way of the gate : and it was so, that when any man that had a controversie came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou ? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

3. And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right, but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

4. Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, and that every man which hath any suit or cause, might come unto me, &c.

How lowly to the gazing Rout he bow'd,
 For none can seem so humble as the Proud?
 Early he rose, so ill Ambition slept,
 And in the Gate perpetual Guard he kept:
 When any of the Tribes for Justice came
 He sounds his Bus'ness, his Abode, and Name,
 And Court-Delays does well-dissimbling blame:
 My Father to his Harp delights to sing
 The Temple-Hymns, too pious for a King:
 The while the Bus'ness of the State forgot,
 And Law alike, and JUSTICE sold and bought.
 Ah, had I, tho' unworthy such a Grace,
 On his Tribunal, but the meanest Place;
 None justly shou'd with my award be griev'd,
 None shou'd depart my Presence unreliev'd.
 When to the Royal Youth Obeisance made,
 Too much, my Friend, 'tis far too much he said,
 You must not thus to me yourself debase,
 Then stooping, rears 'em with a kind Embrace,
 Thus steals their Hearts; the King almost alone;
 Robb'd of his Subjects, late on his deserted Throne;

CLIII.

Absalon's Conspiracy. David's Flight
from Jerusalem. Hushai's Loyalty, &c.

THE Seeds of Treason now grew ripe for
Birth,

And raise their baleful Heads from teeming Earth ;
Of War and Bloodshed bode a plenteous Crop,
And hov'ring Fiends their bleeding Quarry hope :
Too long th' Unnatural thinks he waits in vain,
While his hard Father still protracts his Reign :
The small Remains of Piety he breaks,
And thus the Hypocrite his injur'd Sire bespeaks :

With Grief and Shame, Great Sir ! I call to
mind,

The Faults of Youth, which none but one so kind,
Cou'd e're have pardon'd---- Then, when in dis-
grace,

Deny'd the Bliss to see a Father's Face ;
Wandering in foreign Fields, a Vow I made,
Which, ah ! too long has now remain'd unpaid ;
That if my Father's God wou'd me restore
To his lov'd House, I there wou'd him adore, }
And with an hundred Victims die the sacred Floor ; }

Yet since I've learnt, Obedience far out-vies
 The richest *Gifts* and noblest *Sacrifice*,
 My *Guilt*, and Heav'n's just *Wrath* I'll rather bear,
 Than to my native *Hebron's* Walls repair ;
 Till your *Commands* and *Blessing* I obtain :

Scarce cou'd the King from Tears of Joy refrain,
 With kind paternal Love embrac'd and kiss'd,
 And then the Traitor from his Arms dismiss'd :
 To Royal *Hebron* he his *Progress* bends,
 To all the Tribes his trusty *Spies* he sends.
 When thence they heard from far the Trumpets
 found,

The Signal 'twas that *Absalom* was crown'd,
 And all must spread the joyful News around :
 But none cou'd serve his dark *Designs* so well,
 As thy Serpentine Head, Achitophel !

Th' Oraculous Traitor came, as Satan wise,
 For darling *Mischief* left his *Sacrifice* :
 From ev'ry Tribe unnumber'd Thousands run,
 And *Hebron* crowd t' adore the rising Sun :
 Suprizing Tidings they to *David* bring,
 That all was lost, and *Absalom* was King :

Salem he leaves, his faithful Guards attend,
 Moisten'd with Tears they Olivet ascend,
 By Loyal Hushai met, his Princes ancient Friend : }
 Constrain'd he stays, and him behind they leave,
 With honest Fraud the Traitor to deceive ;
 Who now from Hebron-Hills came crowding
 down,
 And enter with loud Shouts th' unguarded sacred
 Town,

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XV. from Ver. 7. to the End.

Ver. 10. Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet; then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.

11. And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called, and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

13. And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

14. And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword, &c.

CLIV.

Ziba's Fraud. Shimei curses David.
Achithophel's Counsel overthrown by
Hushai, on which he hangs himself.

False Ziba's Drove the Royal Exile meet,
He lights and throws himself at David's Feet ;
A Grant by fraudulent Suggestions gains,
And from the Crown his Master's Lands obtains ;
Some small Refreshments to his Army brings,
Nor Ziba was the last that cheated Kings.

Yet harder Treatment did the Hero find,
From black-mouth'd Shimei's canker'd Tongue and
Mind :

A Wretch he was of Saul's abandon'd Race,
The Soul of Spite and Envy in his Face :
See where the Felon in the Passage stands,
His Mouth with Curses fill'd, with Stones his
Hands :

Avaunt thou Fiend, thou Murtherer, he cry'd !
Thy guilty Hands thy Master's Blood has dy'd ;
By Treason didst thou seize his vacant Throne,
The Fate he met is justly now thine own ;
Silent th' afflicted Prince--- Abishai turn'd,
Sparkled his Eyes, his Breast with anger burn'd :

And

CLIV.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XVI. XVII. to
Ver. 23.

315



Chap. XVI. Ver. 5. When king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

6. And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people, and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

7. And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man of Belial.

And

And shall this snarling Wretch, my Lord! he said,
blaspheme the King! --- Speak but his Doom,
he's dead,

I'll in a Moment fetch the Traitor's Head.

The Royal Meekness thus--- Let him Curse on!
Since Heav'n permits, and orders all--- my Son,
Part of my self, my Soul, my Absalon
Into his envy'd Father's Years enquires,
My Crown already seiz'd, my Life desires:
Loyal to him this Benjamite, and mild,
Nor uncommission'd has he me revil'd;
My Virtues Tryal, which if firm it prove,
May Heav'n, perhaps, at length to Pity move.

Thus calmly bright the Hebrew Monarch shew'd,
When wading thro' Afflictions gloomy Cloud;
While Absalom a short-liv'd Meteor glares,
And hides his tow'ring Head among the Stars:
War, Plagues, and Death his sanguine Streams
portend,
From fetid Earth exhal'd, on Earth must end:
He mounts at once his Father's Bed and Throne,
His rich Seraglio seiz'd, and made his own;
Thus did th' abhorr'd Achithophel advise;
Nor cou'd imperfect Mischief him suffice,
The King himself his Counsel to surprize;

He sues the wish'd Employment might be his,
The Traitor fears he shou'd the Murther miss :
But faithful Hushai call'd to this debate,
More pleas'd the hot-brain'd Charioteer of State :
The Loyal Traitor found his weaker side,
Did to his Ruin honestly misguide, 2
Provok'd his youthful Fire and sooth'd his Pride :
A King shou'd at his Armies head appear,
Revive his Friends and strike his Foes with Fear :
Let him but stamp and show his Royal Will,
All Israel soon he might with Armies fill :
From Dan they wou'd to old Beersheba rise,
As Clouds of swarming Insects dusk the Skies ;
Thro' all the Tribes th' affrighted King pursue
And swallow, as the Sun the morning Dew :
The Motion pleas'd, to Hushai all incline,
For 'twas of God to blast their curs'd Design :
This saw Achitophel, and swohn with Pride,
Around his Neck th' unhappy Noose he ty'd,
Suborn'd his speedy Fate, and like a Traitor di'd. 3

CLV.

David met by Barzillai at Mahanaim.
*The Battel between his Servants and
 Absalon. Absalon slain by Joab.*

What lately pass'd in Council, Hushai sends
 To David's Camp, by two confiding Friends:
 To Mahanaim, late a Kingly Seat,
 O're Jordan's Floods they make a swift Retreat ;
 By old Barzillai met--
 With Grief at once, and welcom in his Eyes,
 Whose hoary Loyalty their Wants supplies ;
 His Wealth and corresponding Heart so large
 To treat a King, nor sink beneath the Charge.
 When Tidings came that with a num'rous Host,
 The Rebels had the Streams of Jordan cross'd ;
 And like its spreading Torrent swoln with Rain,
 With a broad Front came sweeping o're the Plain.
 The Monarch hears, tho' long with Fortune press'd ;
 He rouz'd the Royal Virtue in his Breast :
 Review'd his Army and prepar'd for Fight,
 Himself resolv'd to try the Rebel's might :
 Nor this his faithful Friends, who thus-- If all
 Thy Servants shou'd in heat of Battel fall ;
 The Rebels wou'd so mean a Prey despise,
 Their Treason at a nobler Quarry flies :

Myriads

CLV.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XVII. from Ver. 24.
to the End. Chap. XVIII. to Ver. 18.

319



Chap. XVIII. Ver. 9. Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak; and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth, and the mule that was under him went away.

14. And Joab took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

15. And ten young men that bare Joab's armour, compassed about, and smote Absalom, and slew him.

Myriads of ours the sacred Life out-weighs,
 Who if within the Town entrench'd he stays,
 If press'd with Odds before the Foe we bend
 A strong Reserve to our Relief may send :
 Compell'd he yields-- Nor cou'd his Royal Breast
 Tho' injur'd, all the Father yet divest ;
 O spare that unadverting Youth, he said,
 Whom ill Advice to this rash Action led ;
 Neither by Malice wicked, nor Design,
 Who e're attempts his Life, must aim at mine :
 Silent the Generals hear his fond Desire,
 The Father praise, but not the King admire.

A Wood there was in Ephraim's fruitful Bound
 Horrid with ancient Oaks and Shades profound,
 Of old for Giants terribly renown'd ;
 Tho' future Times with more of Dread relate,
 The Wonders of this Day's decisive Fate :
 Both Armies meet beneath this gloomy Glade,
 And Darts and Arrows make a double Shade :
 How rude the Shocks, how obstinate the Fight !
 But Fortune, once, tho' blind, was in the right :
 The Cherethites with Joab at their Head,
 Like Lightning pierc'd the Ranks ; the heartless
 Rebels fled ;
 Fled Absalon as fast as Guilt and Fear,
 And his swift Mule cou'd him from Battel bear :

Those

Those *Mists* fly off which late *obscur'd* his *Sight*,
When flatt'ring *Fortune* conquer'd *Reason's Light* ;
And *Nature* now to mind, and *Reason* brought
His injur'd Father, (how severe à *Thought* !)
How *kind*, how *good* ! almost he did *Repent* ;
But cou'd not now his hast'ning *Fate* prevent ?
Now all too late, his righteous *Doom* is past ;
---As thro' the *Woods* he flies with luckless *Haste*,
While the *deceitful Wind* does loosely bear,
The flowing *Honours* of his fatal *Hair*,
An aged *Oak* seiz'd and secur'd him there :
Swift as a *Shaft* from *Parthian Archer* sped,
His *Mule* shoots on, and thro' the *Covert* fled :
With a malicious *Joy* fierce *Joab* hears,
And grasping in his Hand three pondrous *Spears*
Pointed with *Death*, unto the *Place* he flew,
And at the *Royal Youth* the quiv'ring *Weapons*
threw :
To his ambitious *Heart* they found the way,
And let out lab'ring *Life*, and introduc'd the *Day*.
When thus the Chief-- If after this thou live,
Let *David* thee forgive, I'll him forgive :
An *Heap* of *Stones* they on the *Body* cast,
His *Marble Column* now by *Time* defac'd,
His *Infamy* shall down to num'rous Ages last.

CLVI.

David mourns for Absalom. He returns to Jerusalem. Shimei pardon'd. Amasa slain. Sheba's Rebellion and Destruction.

IN Prime of Youth thus Talmai's Nephew fell,
And thus may all who dare like him rebel !
With true paternal Grief his Father hears,
Retires from publick View, and melts in Tears ;
Then thus-- " O Absalom ! my Son ! my Son !
" My dearer than my Soul ! my Absalon !
" Why is my Grief so weak, or why so strong ?
" Why must I still a weary Life prolong ?
" With how much Joy had I his Place supply'd,
" The Son had liv'd and reign'd, the hapless Fa-
ther di'd ?

The Joys of Triumph thus to Tears were turn'd,
The sympathizing Land with David mourn'd :
Fierce Joab hears, and by his Service bold,
The Truth too roughly for a Subject told :
The King his Grief repress'd, he dries his Tears,
And in the Gate with alter'd Face appears :
To Zadok and Abimaaz he sends,
Who in the worst of Times his faithful Friends,
By these and Amasa the Heart of Judah bends :

At

CLVI.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XVIII. XIX. and
Chap. XX. to Ver. 22.



Chap. XX. Ver. 10. Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and strook him not again, and he died.

12. And he wallowed in blood in the mids of the high-way: and when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa out of the high-way into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still.

22. A woman went unto all the people in her wisdom, and they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab: and he blew a trumpet, &c.

At Gilgal their returning Prince they meet,
 Ev'n Shimei comes, and prostrate at his Feet ;
 For Pardon sues, and does his Suit obtain,
 By thee, Zerviah's Son ! oppos'd in vain :
 Mephibosheth does half his Lands regain.

At Jordan David old Barzillai leaves,
 And Chimham in his room to Court receives :
 Thus grateful Princes smile on worthy Deeds,
 And to the Father's Grace the Son succeeds :
 Yet still the Relicks of the Storm remain,
 And bode a dreadful Show'r of sanguin Rain.

While Israel Judah blames; that they alone
 Recall'd the King, and fix'd him on his Throne.
 Too soon the unlucky Hint false Sheba takes,
 A Trumpet sounds, and new Rebellion makes :
 Amasa now commands in Joab's stead,
 And to pursue the Rebels Judah led ;

Nor this Zerviah's cruel Offspring bore,
 But basely stabb'd, as Abner long before,
 And left the Gen'ral weltring in his Gore ;

Then thro' the Tribes the Son of Bichri chas'd,
 Who in strong Abel's Walls his Refuge plac'd :
 The Royal Forces soon the Town invest,
 With vast Machines on ev'ry side 'tis prest,

At length one Woman's Prudence saves the rest :
 Curs'd Sheba's Head did all their Faults attone,
 See where 'tis o're the lofty Turret thrown :

Deform'd in Death, and dropping putrid Gore,
His Mouth can vomit Treason now no more :
Faob a Trumpet sounds, the Siege to raise,
And to Jerusalem in Peace the Host conveys.

CLVII.

David's last Words.

AND now the not unwelcom Hour was come,
When Angels wait their Brother Psalmist
home :
For his lov'd Harp he calls, resolv'd to die
As he had liv'd, in Hymns and Harmony :
His ready Hand runs o're the vocal Strings,
And thus instructive Truths, and God's high Praise
he sings.

“ I feel the sacred Spirit my Breast inspire,
And guide my Song, and guide my tuneful Lyre :
’Tis God that speaks, ye Gods on Earth give Ear,
The Rock of Israel’s awful Precepts hear !
You who with Sovereign Sway o’re Men preside,
Let Piety your Steps and Justice guide !
In Goodness like th’ All-High, as well as Pow’r,
Whom for his Grace the suppliant World adore :
So shall your Fame appear serenely bright,
Out-shine the rising Sun, and morning Light ;

Sweet as the tender Grass, and fragrant Flow'rs,
 Call'd by the Sun, and rais'd by fruitful Show'rs.
 Tho' otherwise for me just Heav'n ordain,
 With Crimes my House, with Blood deform'd my
 Reign,

Yet God's unfailing Words my Hopes secure,
 For like himself his Contract's wise and sure :
 'Tis here I fix, nor ought beyond require ;
 All my Salvation 'tis, and all my Soul's desire :
 Not to those Sons of Belial, who disdain
 Jehova's easie Yoke and gentle Reign ;
 The Laws of Earth and Heav'n at once withstand,
 And wound like Thorns th' unwary Toucher's
 Hand.

Armour of Proof, if you approach 'em, wear,
 Or keep them at the distance of a Spear !
 The Blood they shed will Heav'n at length require,
 Their Doom, the dreadful Lake of never-ending Fire.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XXIII. from Ver. 1.
 to Ver. 7.

Ver. 1. Now these be the last words of David :
 David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was
 raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob,
 and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,

2. The spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word
 was in my tongue, &c.

CLVIII.

David's Worthies.

NO R shall those Heroes unrecorded pass,
Well worthy Marble Piles and Leaves of Brass,
By David oft in doubtful Battel try'd,
Who ne're for Fear or Danger left his side :

The Tachmonite-- His eldest Captain he,
First of the mighty Thirty, and the Three ;
His Spear he rais'd, which never rais'd in vain,
His single Force whole Armies scarce sustain ;
Behold almost a Thousand round him slain !

Next, and but next, Great Eleazar stood,
Whose Sword so oft had drunk Philistine Blood:
One of the Three with David at their Head,
Who when from Caphthor's Offspring Israel fled,
Stood firm, and all their conqu'ring Host defi'd,
And humbled soon their mighty Fishes Pride :
He rose, he smote, he foil'd, he lash'd, he slew,
And soon the bold Pursuers did pursue ;
Till his strong Hand no more his Sword cou'd wield,
He mow'd the bloody Harvest of the Field.
Thus by his Arm the God of Battles fought,
And Great Salvation for his People wrought.
The Heav'ns with Shouts, their Tents with Spoils
they fill,
'Twas all their Work for none were left to kill.

Shammah the Third, from Dammim's Fields re-
noun'd,

With Conquest and with deathless Laurels crown'd :
The fore-skinn'd Host a general Forage made,
Like Locusts they the ripen'd Fields invade ;
Fix'd like a Land-mark in the Path he stands,
Nor one escapes with Life that reach'd his Hands :

These Three above the rest in Strength and Fame
To David in Adullam's Fastness came ; }
Fierce Sirius rag'd, the Heav'ns were all on Flame.
And Beasts and Men refreshing Streams desire,
To slake their Thirst, and quench their raging Fire ;
David himself, tho' long his Pain compress'd,
Gasp'd and faint, at length the Man confess'd ;
(For Heroes too of mortal Mold are made,
And Nature's Iron-Laws by all obey'd.)
Then thus-- Our common Blessings we despise,
And only by their Absence learn to prize :
O for a Draught of Bethlem's crystal Well !
But 'tis in vain, and I'll my Wish repel !
This heard the mighty Three, to none they spoke,
But thro' Philistia's num'rous Army broke,
Who lay encamp'd in Bethlem's Avenue,
And fill'd the Town-- while one the Water drew,
His Fellows like a Wall before him stood,
And slaughter'd all around, and dy'd the Streams
with Blood.

CLVIII.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XXIII. from Ver. 7.
to the End.

329



Ver. 15. David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!

16. And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the Lord.

17. And he said, Be it far from me, O Lord, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives?

Then

Then from the Pass their timerous Foe they drive,
As yielding *Clouds* which *Bolts* of *Thunder* rive ;
And to their Gen'ral brought the far-fet *Prize* :
Forbid it Heav'n the pious Chief replies,
That what with hazard of your Lives you gain'd,
Sacred to God, shou'd be by me profan'd !
Thus with uplifted Hands *Tessides* said,
Then on the Ground a pure *Libation* made.

Such Deeds can virtuous *Love of Praise* inspire,
When *Souldiers* fight for *Honour*, not for *Hire*.
Nor must *Abishai's*, or *Benaiah's* Name,
Or, *Asabel* ! thine, be unconsign'd to *Fame* :
Nor shou'd the rest which *sacred Books* rehearse,
But their unwonted *Sounds* refuse the *Laws* of
Verse.

CLIX.

David numbers the People. A Pestilence sent, &c.

TOO happy *Israel* now, debauch'd with Ease,
Dissolve in lazy *Luxury* and *Peace* :
When Kings offend, their sinful *Lands* endure
Those *Plagues* which their *united Crimes* procure.

Satan, commission'd; David's Heart assails,
To Pride he tempts the Monarch and prevails.
For Joab strait he sends, and bids him go
And number all the Tribes, resolv'd his Strength to
know.

His word unwillingly the Chief obey'd,
From Dan he to Beersheba's Coasts survey'd,
Th' appointed Ransom for their Souls unpay'd:
Th' ungrateful Sacrilege did Heav'n resent,
And to the King with heavy Tidings sent;
My Three dread Scourges, Famine, Plague and War
Are all propos'd, thou must for one prepare:
How hard a Choice! The Monarch how distress'd!
Yet with repenting Tears he chose the Best:
Into the Hands of God, since one he must,
He chose to fall, as Merciful as Just.
See the destroying Angel speed away,
While greedy Death attends to seize her Prey!
His Sword of poi's nous Exhalations made,
Red, as a fatal Comet's flaming Blade,
High in mid-Heav'n he brandish'd, not in vain,
In three short Days were Seventy thousand slain.

And now o're fair Jerusalem he stood
And shakes his Sword, which thirsted yet for Blood:
Jessides saw the Minister of Fate,
In Act to strike, and but for Orders wait:

From Olivet he to Moriah strode,
And in his Hand the dreadful Sword of God :
Low on the Ground he falls with Sackcloth spread,
His Crown laid by, and Ashes on his Head :
On me, on me, O righteous Heav'n ! let all
The threaten'd Death, and heavy Vengeance fall :
But spare these Innocents, nor let thy Rage
Wax hot against thy Sheep, thy Heritage !
'Twas I that number'd, I that sinn'd-- 'tis I
Alone deserve, alone desire to die.
Mild Pity heard, and prostrate at the Throne
Presents his Pray'rs, and added of her own :
The Father smiles and grants ; she shoots away
And pass'd the Confines of eternal Day,
On her own peaceful Rain-bow swerving down,
She stood confess'd above the sacred Town,
Seiz'd the Destroying-Angel's flaming Brand,
Seal'd in its Sheath, and stopp'd his lifted Hand ;
Then did to raise th' afflicted Monarch send
The Reverend Gad, his Prophet and his Friend :
In Ornan's Floor an Altar bids him rear,
To him who stopp'd the hov'ring Vengeance there.
'Tis done, the grateful Odor mounts the Skies,
And heav'nly Fire consumes th' accepted Sacrifice.

CLIX.

2 SAMUEL, Chap. XXIV. 1 CHRON.
Chap. XXI.

333.



Chap. XXIV. Ver. 21. Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing-floor of thee, to build an altar unto the Lord, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

24. ----So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen, for fifty shekels of silver.

25. And David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt-offerings, and peace-offerings: so the Lord was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

CLX.

I KINGS, Chap. I, II.

Adonijah affects the Kingdom. Solomon anointed King. Adonijah, Joab, and Shimei slain, &c.

BUT Kings as well as Empires have their Date,
And all must yield to Time and Age and Fate:
Broken with Cares, the Monarch now appears,
And sinks beneath the Weight of Seventy Years:
Languid and Cold, almost a Carcass grown,
He lives by Warmth and Vigour not his own:
This Adonijah heard, fair Haggith's Son,
In Beauty only next to Absalon:
Ensigns of Royalty like him prepar'd,
High on his Chariot rais'd, and circled with a Guard:
Abiathar the Pontiff with him joyns;
And Joab aids in his unjust Designs:
By Rogel's-Well he at Zohelth staid,
His Brethren call'd, a Kingly Feast he made;
But Solomon he left with conscious Fear,
Nor Zadok, Nathan, or Benaiah there:
To David, Bathsheba and Nathan bring
The Tidings first, that he assum'd the King

The Monarch rous'd, by Israel's God he swears,
And Solomon his Successor declares :
On his own Royal Mule he rides in State,
The Guards and Council him to Gihon wait :
The sacred Oyl with Joy they thither bring,
Anoint him there, and shout--- God save the King!
The hollow Vales restor'd the distant Sound,
Shook lofty Olivet, and shook the Ground :
This to Zobeleth's Stone the Traitors hear,
Vanish'd their Mirth, their Hearts dissolv'd with
Fear :

Their King Himself, and they their King disown,
He quits his short-liv'd Reign, and quits his Throne ;
For Refuge he to God's High-Altar flies,
And sues for Life, when Solomon, replies,
If Loyal he's secure, if false he dies :

In Peace he thence did to his House retreat ;
But soon the curs'd Ambition to be Great,
The Royal Mercy did, and his Resolves defeat :
For David now to his Fore-fathers gon,
Agen he seeks by Wiles to mount the Throne :
To strengthen thus his Title, seeks to wed,
The beauteous Relict of the Royal Bed :
Nor this young Solomon, whose piercing Eyes
The Treason saw, tho' veil'd in Loves disguise,
And by Benaiah's Hand his Rival dies :
Next Joab, vainly to God's Altar fled,
Who Abner's Blood, and Amasa's had shed :

Just Vengeance, sure tho' slow, did him pursue,
 Benaiah there, the hoary Murtherer slew :
 Nor railing Shimei scap'd, but Kidron cross'd ;
 His solemn Oath he broke, his Life he lost :
 Abiathar with milder Doom depriv'd,
 To his own native Fields confin'd he liv'd ;
 The righteous Fate of Eli's House he bore,
 And Zadok in his Room, great Aaron's Ephod wore.

CLXI.

Solomon prays for Wisdom. He decides
 the Case between the two Harlots.

Plac'd on his Father's Throne, with pious Care
 The Prince adores the Pow'r that fixt him there :
 Ten Hecatombs to God at Gibeon paid ;
 And more, he lov'd him, and his Laws obey'd :
 Bright Signs of Peace and Grace th' Almighty gave,
 And bids him make his Terms, and ask and have :
 When thus with humble Heart and Voice he said,
 (New Blessings ask'd, and Thanks for Blessings paid.)
 My Father David, whom thy Bounty chose,
 Did not in vain on thee his Hopes repose ;
 His Family thy promis'd Goodness share,
 Nor wants his House, nor wants his Throne an Heir.

Tho'

Tho' I unfit for that exalted Stage,
How Young at once in *Wisdom* and in *Age* !
My People num'rous, and my Kingdom large,
And who is equal to so vast a Charge ?
O thou, the King of Kings, whose Sov'reign sway
This Earth, and even the Heav'n of Heav'ns obey ;
Give Knowledge to discharge my weighty Trust !
The Art of Ruling give, and make me Wise and Just !
Th' Almighty heard, and pleas'd with his Desire,
Thus answers mild----

Since thou dost neither Length of Days require,
Revenge nor Riches which the World admire ;
But rather *Wisdom* ask, I'll give thee more
Than Mortal e're shall have, or e're enjoy'd before :
Riches and Honour, Regal Pomp and State,
I give thee undesir'd for over-weight :
And if like David thou my Laws maintain,
I'll crown thee with a long and prosp'rous Reign :

He said, nor was the Sacred Word in vain ;
To Salem's Royal Town the King returns,
And Victims slays, and hallow'd Incense burns :
When to his Throne two clam'rous Women came,
And Justice ! Justice ! both aloud exclaim.
An Infant in their Arms did each embrace,
Breathless was one, with pale and alter'd Face ;
The Second, warmth and vigorous Life confess'd,
And paid his Nurse with Smiles, who clasp'd him to
her Breast :

Both claim'd the *Living*, both the *Dead* deny'd,
No *Witness* but their own the King to guide : }
What mortal *Wisdom* cou'd the *Case* decide ? }
Awhile he weighs with deep *consid'rate Thought*,
Then calls his *Guards*, and bids a *Sword* be brought ;
In equal *Parts* the *Child* that did *survive*
He bids *divide*, and *half* to either give :
The *spurious Mother* with th' *Award* content
His *Justice* prais'd, and gave her full *Consent* :
Not so the *Genuin*, when the *Guards* prepare
To execute a *Sentence* so severe ;
Pale as the lifeless *Corps* that near her lay,
And cold as *Death* she cries and bids 'em stay :
Then to the King--- O let her *all* enjoy,
Rather than my dear *Infant* thus destroy !
--- 'Tis finish'd, the sagacious *Prince* reply'd,
And *Nature* does herself the *Cause* decide ;
The *Child* is *Hers*--- which she with *Joy* receives,
With *Shame* her Rival the *Tribunal* leaves :
Th' *Assembly* shout, and *Heav'n*'s *Indulgence* own,
Which plac'd so *Wise* a *King* on *David*'s vacant
Throne.

CLXI.

I KINGS, Chap. III. from Ver. 16.
to Ver. 27.

339



Ver. 25. *And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.*

26. *Then spake the woman whose the living child was, unto the king, (for her bowels yerned upon her son) and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: but the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.*

27. *Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.*

CLXII.

Solomon's Temple.

THE Monarch now with *Peace* and *Plenty*
 bless'd,
For God on ev'ry side had giv'n him *Rest* ;
A lofty *Pile* of wondrous *Art* and *Charge*,
A *Temple* opulent, august and large :
Whose *Majesty* might some *Resemblance* bear,
 { Of that dread *Pow'r* who fix'd his *Mansion* there,
On tall *Moriah's Mount* resolves to rear :
To *Tyrian Hiram*, his *Ally*, he sends,
(*Hiram* and *David* had been *ancient Friends*.)
His Servants help he gains, for none so well
 Cou'd *Timber* square, or lofty *Cedars* fell :
. To *Lebanon's fair Forrest* they repair,
His *Head* like barren *Calvary's* they bare :
The *Sun*, a *Stranger* there, the *Ground* invades,
And drinks new *Dew*, and drives th' affrighted
 Shades.
To *Sidon's Shore*, a long and dubious Road,
O're craggy *Rocks* they drag their *precious Load* ;
 To

To Zoppa's ancient Haven thence they bring,
Not unrewarded by the Hebrew King.

All things prepar'd, see the vast Fabrick rise,
And from the Center hasten to the Skies;

In three fair Stories wrought, stately and tall,
Marble the Columns, Marble was the Wall:

The House with Cedar floor'd, with Cedar lin'd,
And all with flaming Gold profusely shin'd:

So richly carv'd that Nature owns, compel'd,
She here is by her Hand-maid Art excel'd.

But who th' amazing Splendor dares reveal,
Which mystic Veils from mortal Eyes conceal?

Those bright Cherubic Forms which guard the
Place,

Those menial Angels who attend and gaze!

---At safer distance from the Throne retire!

Those wide and everlasting Gates admire!

Those Pillars which the Pyramids surpass;

The Mould how curious, and how rich the Brass!

Behold yon Sea, which scarce admits a Shore,
And Rivers will receive, yet thirst for more:

Rang'd on their Bases Ten fair Lavers near,
On either side like Inland Lakes appear:

Ten splendid Lamps of Ophir's Gold refin'd,
With purest Oyl, and native Lustre shin'd.

Next see what spacious Courts the Dome surround,
With Portico's, and fair Piazza's crown'd !

The dreadful Ark the Priests and Levites bore,
To settled Seats, a Wanderer no more.

When all compleat, a vast Assembly came,

Drawn by their Monarchs and their Temples Fame :

The Dedication now their Care employs,

And Israel's Sons in festal Hymns rejoice :

Nor cou'd a Thousand Hecatombs suffice,

The bleating, and the bellowing Nation dies,

Almost the Species falls a Sacrifice.

--See where the pious Prince himself expands,

Kneeling before the Throne his spotless Hands !

Loud Instruments and Voices fill the Quire,

Their Praise receiv'd, for lo ! th' auspicious Fire }

Breaks from the Oracle, the Priests retire ; }

A Present Deity by all confess'd,

Trembling, their Fathers God they call, adoring,
 bless'd.

CLXII.

I K I N G S , Chap. V , VI , VII . Ch. VIII .
from Ver. 15. to the End . 2 C H R O N .
Chap. VII . to Ver. 3 .

343



Chap. VIII . Ver. 22. Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord, in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands towards heaven :

23. And he said, Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, &c.

54. And when he had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees, with his hands spread up to heaven.

55. And he stood and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, &c.

CLXIII.

*The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon ;
propounds Questions to him ; makes
Presents to him, and receives from
him.*

A Tracted by the Hebrew Monarch's Fame,
Rich Sheba's Queen from bless'd Arabia came :
Prepar'd, as was the Custom of her Age,
To prove his Skill with Problems Deep and Sage :
How splendid was her Train, how vast her
Store ?

What Caravans of Camels Spices bore,
What precious Gems and Heaps of shining Ore ?
Majestic on his Throne she saw him crown'd,
She saw his Nobles waiting silent round,
And struck with awe, cou'd scarce her Doubts
propound :

But when she heard the Prince with ease explain,
What Zoktan's Sons so oft had try'd in vain ;
No Trees or Shrubs that on the Mountains grew,
No Herbs that drank the Valley's fragrant Dew,
But he their Names and various Natures knew ;

When

CLXIII.

I K I N G S, Chap. X. from Ver. 1. to
to Ver. 14.



Ver. 1. When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, concerning the name of the Lord, she came to prove him with hard questions.

2. And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

3. And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not.

When she his Throne and Table did survey,
His Household, with their Order and Array ;
The stately Galleries and broad Ascent,
Which from the Palace to the Temple went ;
She cou'd no more, pleas'd and at once amaz'd,
In Extasie awhile, she round her gaz'd :
Recov'ring, thus--- while I at home remain'd,
And in Sabea's narrow Confines reign'd ;
I heard, but scarce believ'd the Voice of Fame,
Which did your Wisdom and your Acts proclaim :

Too loud I thought her then, but now her Silence
blame :

My dazled Eyes, Great Sir ! have seen far more,
Nor heard I half of Solomon before :
Almost beyond a Mortal, bless'd is he
Whose daily Duty to attend on thee ;
Hear the lov'd Accents of thy Voice divine,
And see that Face, that heav'nly Face of thine !
Bless'd be the Pow'r that fix'd thee on the Throne,
To rule his favourite People and thy own ;
Strict Justice to dispense with equal Hand,
Large as thy Soul, and wide as thy Command !

She said, then did a Royal Present make,
Worthy of her to give, and him to take ;
Myrrh, Nard, Amomum, Frankincense she brings,
And Gold that wou'd have ransom'd captive Kings ;
Which Solomon with Princely Grace receives,
And more of his own Royal Bounty gives :
What cou'd he not, when so immense his Store ? }
How vast the Sums which his proud Navy bore
From old Tartessus, and from Ophir's Shore ?
Silver and Gold o'reflow his happy Land,
As plenteous as the Pebbles on the Sand :
The precious Metal takes a warlike Mould,
His Shields, his pond'rous Targets blaz'd with Gold.
Exotic Beasts and Birds augment his State,
Which human Speech or Action imitate ;
See there the mimic Ape, for Laughter made,
While the proud Peacock near, her gaudy Train
displaid !

CLXIV.

Solomon's Wives in his old Age seduce
him to Idolatry.

Fatal Prosperity ! How fond, how blind !

Thou sweetest, deadliest Poison to Mankind !

Unjustly we of adverse Fate complain ;

That has its Thousands sav'd, and thou Ten thousands
slain :

But, ah ! when Women on thy side engage,

How swift the Death, how strong the Philtres
Rage !

What Potent Kings, what Heroes Great and Wise,

Have at thy Altars fain a Sacrifice ?

But none like Solomon to future Times,

Transmit thy Conquests and transmit their Crimes :

Behold his Wisdom sunk, his Lustre fade,

His Glory clouded in how deep a Shade ?

A thousand Women to his Court he brings,

(Almost too many for a thousand Kings !)

They steal his Scepter while he drags their Chain,

And wears in solid Sloth a shameful Reign :

CLXIV.

I KINGS, Chap. XI. from Ver. 1.
to Ver. 14.

349



Ver. 4. It came to pass when Solomon was old; that his wives turned away his heart after other gods.

5. And he went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

6. And Solomon did live in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as did David his father.

7. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem; and for Molech the abomination of the children of Ammon.

From

From various Nations his Seraglio stor'd,
Their mungril Faith as various Gods ador'd :
Th' uxorious King to gain a quiet Life,
Almost a diff'rent God must serve for ev'ry Wife.
A fair Sidonian made him first decline,
And brought him to her own Astarte's Shrine ;
With Pharaoh's Daughter she unites her Claim ;
Th' Egyptian sacred Heifer was the same :
To Chemosh then he bow'd his hoary Head,
By Moabitish Charms to Ruin led :
At Moloch's sanguine Altar next he's seen,
To please his beauteous Ammonitish Queen :
God's sacred Temple now neglected lies,
No Incense there, no Pray'rs, or Sacrifice :
On either side his pow'rful Rivals grown,
The Demons as of old, insult his Throne.
Was it for this, for this he twice appear'd
To Solomon, when his dreadful Voice he heard ?
What Blessings promis'd to his pious Care ?
How strictly charg'd of Idols to beware ?
But all in vain ; he's lost, his Heart is gone,
He and his Kingdom ruin'd and undone ;
For his Ingratitude and Folly curs'd,
New Foes are rais'd, and Hadad is the First :

Fierce *Edom* conquer'd and his Father dead,
To *Pharaoh's* Court the Youth for Refuge fled ;
Receiv'd with Grace and Princely welcom there,
Nor that proud *Pharoah* did for *Hadad* care,
But *Israel's* Scourge secur'd in *Edom's* Heir ; }
For this did he his dubious Title own,
And made an *Exile Kinsman* to the Throne :
How firm, how gen'rous in his weighty Trust,
How faithful (to his *Int'rest*) and how Just ! }
Thence like a *Vultur* hov'ring from afar,
For plenteous *Death* he hopes, and waits for *War* ;
Ready to stoop and plague the guilty *Land*,
When *Israel's* Sins so dire a Scourge demand :
Rezon the next,--- but greater Mischief rose
From anger'd Fav'rites, and intestine Foes :
To *Zeroboam*, diligent and brave,
The God of *Israel*, *Israel's* Scepter gave :
Whom jealous *Solomon* attempts in vain,
To spoil of *Life*, and of his fated *Reign* ;
When *Dust* himself, he shall his Throne enjoy,
For none cou'd ever yet his Successor destroy.

By reason of the Author's distance from the Press,
these Errors have escap'd, which the Reader is de-
sir'd to correct, as follows; those which were only
literal, or not material, being here omitted.

PAG. 48. Line 28. dele that. 59. 6. r. him to. 72. 5. Clay. ib. 21.
They thus. 92. penult. leavy. 102. 8. content. 124. 31. unutterable. 148. 9. Sons. 174. 10. waving. 180. after l. 18. add Which did th' ungrateful Lands Devotion gain. 189. for Head r. Scull. 196. 21. Pride r. Bride. 199. 21. off r. oft. 204. 1. believ'd. 206. after l. 15. add This his Right Hand, and that his Left embrac'd. 214. 13. now r. how. 246. 4. enquires. 247. 7. with r. which. 250. 7. dar'st. 251. 19. thousands. 266. 15. have it so. 270. 5. r. to. 294. 14. his r. its. 298. 6. To. 302. 20. Streets r. needs. 326. 10. to r. so. 342. l. ult. call r. all. 349. 6. liver. evil. 350. 18. r. dread.

